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THE NEWSPAPER FOR DEAL, WALMER & SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 42

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January 20, 2010

MONEY MATTERS

Our pull-out guide on ways to make your money go further

PROPERTY...
Competition rises for best mortgage
PAGES 47-54



'CAR PARKS CASH COULD FUND LOOS'

AN INNOVATIVE plan to boost the town's finances while assisting Dover District Council's moves on transferring control of local toilets is set to be put forward.

Deal Labour councillor Bryan Henderson says he would back a plan to put the loss-making car parks under town hall control, provided the revenue-generating car parks were given similar treatment.

Dover District Council wants to move responsibility for toilets across the area to the relevant town or parish council.

■ BY NICK AMES

The move is part of a wider attempt to reorganise facilities run for public benefit in order to balance budgetary requirements.

Last week our sister paper Yourdover reported how the closure of two public conveniences in Dover itself had sparked anger from many Labour councillors and a public meeting being called in the town.

But Cllr Henderson said he felt a solution could be reached where the cost of running local toilets in Deal would be offset by money generated by

car-parking charges. He said: "I do understand that the district council wants local councils to run the toilets.

"How about if we run the car parks as well? The money they make will pay for the toilets' upkeep and there should be some left over to benefit the community.

"The excess cash could be used for properly-run local projects. There are many areas in the town that could benefit.

"It would also be a move which I can see getting rid of a layer of bureaucracy. The town would run both provisions for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. Local people would get help as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



An innovative plan to use revenue from car parks to cover the costs of keeping public toilets open has been suggested to Deal Town Council

ISSN 2040559-6

03



WHAT'S ON & WATCH

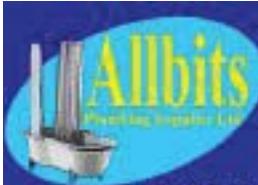
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ALSO INSIDE

COMPETITION	PAGE 12
LETTERS	PAGES 14-15
LEISURE	PAGES 16-43
MOTORING	PAGES 55-57
SPORT	PAGES 62-63



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2 Julie Maddocks takes the Kent chef tour and visits the best of the county's local food producers. Search 'food'



3 Gills boss Mark Stimson talks about the weekend games ahead and catching up after the snow. Search 'Gills'

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EDITOR: Dave Mairs 01303 817022

GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

WEBSITE: www.yourshepway.co.uk

TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourshepway@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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Inquest told of armed robber's final moments

■ BY IAN READ

GETAWAY driver Dean Jenkins told yesterday (Tuesday) how robber Robert Haines fired at police before he was killed.

An inquest in Folkestone has been hearing details of the day gunman Haines was shot by police after an armed security van raid.

Jenkins, 40, told the inquest how he parked a silver Mercedes ready to make a quick exit after the raid in New Romney in October 2006.

Jenkins was jailed for 17 years for his part in four raids which netted the gang £225,000. Jenkins said the first he knew of any ambush by police was when he heard shouts of "armed police".

He said: "I saw Mr Haines come round the corner of the building into the car park. He was holding the sawn-off [shotgun] pointed down to the floor. I heard the shotgun go off and saw the flash. There was a spark like flame as I saw him raise the barrel. He was twisting when I heard three cracking sounds. That's when he was shot.

"My adrenaline was going, I saw his body recoil. I had no choice but to get down. I was asked if I wanted to be tasered – I declined."

Haines was given first aid but died on the way to hospital. The previous day a firearms officer told the inquest he had just three seconds to make a decision to shoot the robber dead.

The officer – known only as Echo 19 – gunned down serial armed robber Haines after a raid on a security van delivery to the Nationwide in New Romney High Street. Haines a 43-year-old dad of two, lived in Challock, near Ashford.

As he made his escape Haines blasted a police team with his shotgun. He was shot three times by Echo 19.

The officer told the inquest how he

spotted Haines wearing a balaclava with slits cut out of it. In one hand he was carrying £105,000 in cash and in the other a sawn-off shotgun.

Armed with a high-velocity machine-gun, Echo 19 was leading the team confronting the raiders.

He said: "I was running at a stoop. I felt vulnerable. As I looked up I saw a shape coming towards me. I turned the torch on my gun on.

"He was a huge figure dressed in black. His face was covered in a balaclava. I could see the white around his eyes. I thought, That's a robber."

"I shouted 'armed police.' I shouted as if my life depended on it."

Haines ran into a car park where the getaway car was waiting. Echo 19 said: "With amazing speed he ran and pirouetted round and brought the gun down. He was facing me. Then he fired. I saw a flash and heard a loud bang. I had no doubt he was trying to kill me. I raised my weapon and fired two shots. I aimed at the centre of his body. I thought he was wearing body armour. I fired again."

Haines slumped to the floor and the officer shouted at him to show his hands. When he didn't, he kicked him. The gunman was shot in the side, the chest and back.

Colleague Echo 10 told how he saw Haines trying to crawl away. He fired a taser but it didn't penetrate the robber's clothing. When he realised the robber might be mortally wounded he gave first aid.

Flying Squad and Metropolitan Police marksmen had been tracking Haines and his gang for months.

They are known to have carried out armed raids had struck across Kent and south east London and now the armed officers were lying in wait next to the Nationwide.

All police officers giving evidence remained anonymous, being referred to by their call signs and were screened from the public. The inquest hearing, which could last five weeks, continues.

yourshepway
NEWS IN BRIEF

Turn over a new leaf with reading at Cube

WEEKLY book readings aimed at promoting literature have been launched by Kent Libraries and Archives in Folkestone.

The Folkestone Reads project has been inspired by Frank Cottrell Boyce's book *Framed*.

Poetry inspired by the book was performed by literature group The Word and Googies Cafe providing a venue for readings and themed displays inspired by the story.

The weekly readings will run every Tuesday until the end of March, from 4-5pm, at the Diva Cafe, The Cube, Tontine Street.

Sally Army's helping hand extends to Haiti

HYTHE Salvation Army has been contributing to the earthquake relief effort in Haiti via its Helping Hands scheme.

Every Wednesday afternoon it opens its doors for fellowship, jokes, trivia and tea, with those attending make a voluntary offering.

Captain Phil Layton said the club was open to all and the weekly contribution, combined with others from across the UK, had enabled the Sally Army to make a good response. It runs a children's home in Haiti where 52 of the 53 children have been accounted for. To make a donation, visit www.salvationarmy.org.

Charities are quids in after clearance work

TWO Marsh charities have each received cheques of £50 after a project team on Shepway council won an achievement award.

Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh and New Romney Sea Cadets shared the £100 prize after the team's work to remove contaminated land at The Meadows in New Romney was recognised.

The project involved clearing gardens after a housing estate was left incomplete by developers. The team secured more than £300,000 in Government funding for the clearance, chose the contractor and oversaw all the work.

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We'll 'tri' our best, promise lifeboat crew

■ BY NICK AMES

THE volunteer crew of Dover lifeboat is set to attempt the equivalent of a 68-mile triathlon in Biggin Street as part of the RNLI's annual SOS fund-raising campaign on Saturday, January 30.

Last year, aided by BBC Southeast weather presenter Nazaneen Ghaffar, the crew raised more than £2,000 from their rowing machine challenge when they rowed a distance equivalent to three crossings from Dover to Boulogne.

This year the challenge is to travel the equivalent distance of Margate to Hastings using a rowing machine, running machine and exercise bike.

The event is part of the yearly RNLI fundraising drive which also sees an event in Walmer.

Dover Coxswain Stuart Richardson explained the choice of route: "Margate and Hastings were chosen as they are respectively the easternmost and westernmost towns of the Confederation of Cinque Ports.

"The virtual route will see us pass close to twelve Cinque Ports and eight lifeboat stations. It is also apt that the Chairman of the RNLI, Admiral the Lord Boyce is, of course, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and that the Mayor of Dover is the current Speaker of the Confederation.

"I was proud of my crew last year for the effort they put in but even more proud of the people of the district for all the support they gave to us during the event."

Senior RNLI area fund-raising manager Jenny Green said: "I am delighted that the Dover crew are, once more, undertaking a challenge in aid of the RNLI's SOS Day. I wish them well and thank all who support them."

The RNLI's biggest fund-raising day will be held on the Friday before the challenge.

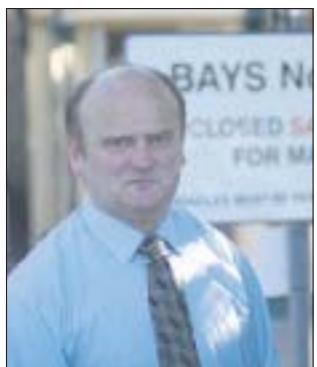
"It is the one day when the RNLI sends its own mayday, SOS, call for the public help and support," said Ms Green.

"It's a great way for everyone to have some fun, whilst raising funds to help the RNLI's volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards save lives at sea.

"To support SOS Day you can make a donation directly to Dover lifeboat station, by undertaking your own fund-raising activities, or by taking part in the Welly Walk in Walmer on January 31."



SOS DAY: Dover lifeboat crew will be taking part in the virtual triathlon to raise funds on the RNLI's annual SOS fund-raising day



BRIGHT IDEA: Councillor Bryan Henderson

'Plan would benefit town'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE
well, in the form of the increased money being made available.

"More and better facilities could be made available, attracting a greater number of visitors who would use the car parks. Such a move would be of great benefit to the town."

Members of the Labour group say they feel there could be cross-party support at a town and parish level for such a move.

However, a spokesman for Dover council said the authority had no plans at present to transfer control of its car parks.

Rapid testing scheme could pinpoint as yet undetected HIV cases

A TRIAL of rapid HIV testing is to be piloted in the Dover area by the Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS Trust to target hard-to-reach individuals.

About 200 people across the east of the county are to take part in the six-week pilot which involves a simple finger-prick test.

The rapid test devices analyse the blood sample to detect the presence of an HIV antigen or the presence of an HIV antibody and can give a result in 20 minutes.

The test allows healthcare professionals to give the result and complete HIV counselling in a single visit.

It is hoped this may reduce the problem of patients failing to collect their positive results.

The pilot is being led by HIV consultant physician Dr Mun-Yee Tung.

Dr Tung said: "Our aim is to evaluate the benefits of a new rapid technology for HIV testing to help expand the availability of testing outside of sexual health clinics which can sometimes be a barrier to people going for the tests."

Some 300 people in eastern and coastal Kent are living with HIV and about 80,000 people are living with the virus in the UK – a quarter of whom do not know they are infected.

Sexual health promotion coordinator Fiona Thomson said: "Stigma and discrimination around HIV remains a barrier to people getting tested."

"The misconception remains that it is something just gay people get. It is not. It can happen to anyone and wearing a condom is still the best way to protect yourself against contracting the virus."

"Thanks to advances in medicine the majority of people can live a near normal life expectancy with HIV and the quicker people are diagnosed the more effective treatment is and the easier it is to stop the spread of this disease."

"The best way we can do this is by encouraging safe sex and making sure people who think they have put themselves at risk get tested regularly."

Day to remember Holocaust victims

DEAL will commemorate the victims of the Nazi Holocaust next week.

Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27 is the international day of remembrance for the victims of the mass slaughter and of other genocides.

The theme for 2010 is the Legacy of Hope and Deal Town Council has arranged a number of events to commemorate this theme.

Firstly, there will be an exhibition at Deal Town Hall which includes work created by local schools, on the January 27 and 28 starting at 10am.

On January 27 there will be a showing of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (12A) sponsored by the Sandwich Deanery Council for Social Responsibility, at the Astor Theatre at 7.30pm, with free entry.

The following day a closing ceremony will be held outside St George's Church at the Memorial Tree, Deal at 3.30pm, with readings and other events.

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Support Rotary as they help Haitians

FOLKESTONE Rotary Club is appealing for donations to help them send supplies to people left homeless by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Vital items such as a Shelterbox, which includes a ten-person tent and survival equipment including thermal blankets and insulated ground sheets, will be sent, along with an Aquabox containing water-filter kits, purification tablets and survival bags.

The Folkestone branch has already been able to supply a Shelterbox and five Aquaboxes, but more are needed.

Any donations towards the coordinated relief effort by Rotary Clubs would be greatly received.

A Shelterbox costs £490 and an Aquabox £80; to find out more, phone Michael Simmonds on 01303 244566 or see www.folkestonerotaryclub.org.

Witnesses sought over alleged attack

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to come forward about an alleged assault in the early hours of New Year's Day.

The man was allegedly attacked outside the Princes Gate flats in George Lane, Folkestone, between 2am and 2.25am on Friday, January 1. Officers would like to hear from anyone who was in the area and saw what happened.

The investigating officer is PC Mick Sedden and he can be contacted on 01303 850055. Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

- A 22-year-old man has been arrested and released on bail while officers make further enquiries.

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Report proves expansion will boost economy, says airport

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

NEW research has been hailed by Lydd airport as proof that its controversial multi-million-pound proposals will boost the local economy and create jobs.

The independent study by Oxera Consulting said regional airports could have a positive impact by reducing travel times and opening up new destinations, as well as attracting trade.

But Louise Barton, of anti-expansion group LAAG, said such research was too general and did not apply to Lydd, which she claims struggles to attract existing business.

The debate over the airport's proposed 444-metre runway extension and 500,000-passenger terminal is intensifying in the countdown to the Shepway council meeting on Wednesday, March 3, to determine the applications.

Lydd airport managing director Jonathan Gordon said: "The economic footprint of modern, successful regional airports is hugely beneficial

to the surrounding area. A thriving airport acts as a real driver for development and economic prosperity as it draws in a range of businesses keen to locate to a regional aviation hub.

"In recent years we have seen numerous examples where investment in developing regional airports has had a positive impact on the local economy and that is our vision."

The report, commissioned by the Airport Operators Association, said that in 2007/08 Britain's aviation sector contributed £8.8 billion of economic output and employed 141,000 people directly, with another 93,000 in the supply chain.

In response, Ms Barton said: "Lydd is an operationally dysfunctional airport with a limited population in an area renowned throughout the world for its natural habitat.

"The whole thing is ludicrous, they find it difficult enough to attract operators. There is no natural reason for people to come to the airport

— there are not good road and rail links compared with somewhere like Manston.

"It's a generalised study which is not applicable to Lydd."

The long-running planning applications for the airport, also known as London Ashford, have already been subjected to a series of delays.

Shepway council moved the original date in January 2008 after it requested more information; then weeks before the rearranged meeting on July 9 the airport's lawyers intervened and asked for more time when the council officers' report recommended refusal.

The September 23 date was then moved to the following day to avoid clashing with the national Liberal Democrat conference. This was then delayed again after Mr Gordon, who had just been appointed to the post, requested more time to look through the paperwork.

A final date has now been set for Wednesday, March 3, at Civic Centre and Shepway chief executive Alistair Stewart said he was not prepared to delay any further.



ALL ABOARD FOR FOOTY

An iconic red double-decker bus will be taking two Littlestone football-crazy fans to the World Cup in South Africa to raise money for the RNLI.

Dave Wimble, 43, and Danny Crawley, 36, from Littlestone-on-Sea lifeboat station, are paying £3,000 each to fund their journey on a 1966 Routemaster bus, leaving in April for the 10,500-mile trip to Cape Town.

They will be sleeping on the bus, handing out football shirts from English clubs to children in other countries and playing the occasional game as part of the fun en route. It is hoped the trip will raise the profile of both the RNLI, the charity which saves lives at sea, and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Dave, an Arsenal supporter who works in the entertainment business, used to be a mechanic at Tower lifeboat station on the River Thames and will repair the bus if it breaks down.

Danny, a former Royal Marine, is a diesel fitter and his expertise could also be required.

To join the team or help with fund-raising, email davidwimble@alliedbroadcast.co.uk or phone 01797 362000.

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TRAGIC VICTIMS OF A MURDERER: Caroline Pierce and Wendy Knell were both killed in the late 1980s

DNA tightens the net on 80s bedsit killer

POLICE investigating the 1987 murders of two women – including one whose body was discovered on Romney Marsh – say that more than 500 people have been eliminated from their inquiry through DNA samples.

Wendy Knell, 26, was found dead in a bedsit in Guildford Road, Tunbridge Wells, in June 1987.

Six months later, Caroline Pierce, 20, was attacked outside her bedsit in the town. Her body was later discovered in a dyke close to St Mary-in-the-Marsh.

Police believe both murders were carried out by the same person and say they have the full DNA profile of the suspected killer.

Officers have been visiting people of interest and with their permission obtaining samples of their DNA. This has been compared with that found at the crime scene.

Worldwide

The worldwide investigation has seen swabs taken by police in Ireland, Canada and Australia and sent back to Kent.

Bill and Pam Knell, the parents of Wendy, have expressed hope that their daughter's killer will be found.

"I am very pleased it is still going on, so we are still hoping," Mr Knell said.

Mrs Knell added: "I'd like to know who it was before I die."

Both women, who had jobs in Camden Road in Tunbridge Wells, had been sexually assaulted, battered and strangled.

Police said there were no "clear signs" of forced entry to Ms Knell's flat in Guildford Road after the murder on July 23, 1987, but her keyring and diary were missing.

Officers also believe a footprint on a blouse at her home, that may have come from a rare Clarks' trainer, belongs to the killer.

Ms Pierce was wearing a long black skirt and red jumper when she was last seen in Grosvenor Park on November 24, 1987. Her

■ BY NICK AMES and JON COATES

body was found by a farm-worker on December 15. Detectives said a set of Ms Pierce's keys was also taken.

The investigation into the two murders has been ongoing since 1987, but securing the full DNA profile in 2007 due to advances in technology was a major breakthrough.

Det Ch Insp Dave Withers, head of Kent Police's cold-case investigation team, has had two detectives working full-time on the murder hunt since 2008, with more officers tasked when needed.

But now his team has renewed efforts to get DNA samples from everyone who knew the two victims, people who lived in the area at the time and people with criminal records for sexual offences and burglary, as Ms Knell was killed inside her bedsit.

DCI Withers said: "As time passes, people move away from the Tunbridge Wells area, so we have been around England, Scotland and Wales, and have had four samples taken by the Garda in Ireland and also samples taken in Canada and Australia by police there."

"It is a painstaking process, but every lead we get we will follow up. We have had an analytical profile done which helps us to prioritise which leads to follow up first."

"I always look at it as the next person we check might be the one."

He said the two murders had been linked due to the similarities, saying: "They were both single young females, both living in bedsits, both in roads with dead ends, both were strangled, sexually abused and beaten around the head."

"There was also a bunch of keys missing in both cases. It is possible the killer took them as trophies. I firmly believe someone out there knows something about these murders. I urge them to contact us in the strictest confidence, as the parents need closure."

Anyone with information can call the investigation team on 01634 884044 or Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

yourshepway NEWS IN BRIEF

Father's body is moved

THE body of the father of ex-Conservative leader and Folkestone and Hythe MP Michael Howard has been exhumed from a vandalised Jewish cemetery and moved to a burial site in Hertfordshire.

Mr Howard's father Bernard was buried in Townhill Jewish Cemetery in Swansea in 1966. But the MP wanted his father to be buried in Bushey Cemetery with his recently deceased mother.

The Swansea cemetery was also restored to a much better state by group United Synagogue, Mr Howard said.

The MP – who is to step down at the next election – asked London-based Jewish group United Synagogue (US) to exhume his father's body and help restore the Swansea cemetery.

The 18th-century cemetery had been vandalised and was overgrown with brambles, the group said.

Pooling decor resources

HYTHE Pool's reception area is to get a £30,000 makeover, including a foyer repaint.

The work, which started on Monday, has been paid for by a cash grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The grant programme was for council-owned pools which had signed up for the Government's over-60s and under-16s free-swimming initiative.

The work is expected to take six weeks to complete and swimmers will be directed to another entrance during the work.

Carole Waters, of Shepway council, said the grant was not enough to pay for major work but painting the foyer would make a difference.

Installation of firm award

A ROMNEY MARSH company has scooped an award in recognition for its work in landscaping and customer service.

Terswin Paving, based in Ivychurch, was named Best Installer South for its work in championing the highest standards of professionalism in driveway and patio projects.

The company's George Waters was presented with a trip for two on the Orient Express as part of the prize.

The Approved Installer Awards are organised by industry leader Brett Landscaping.

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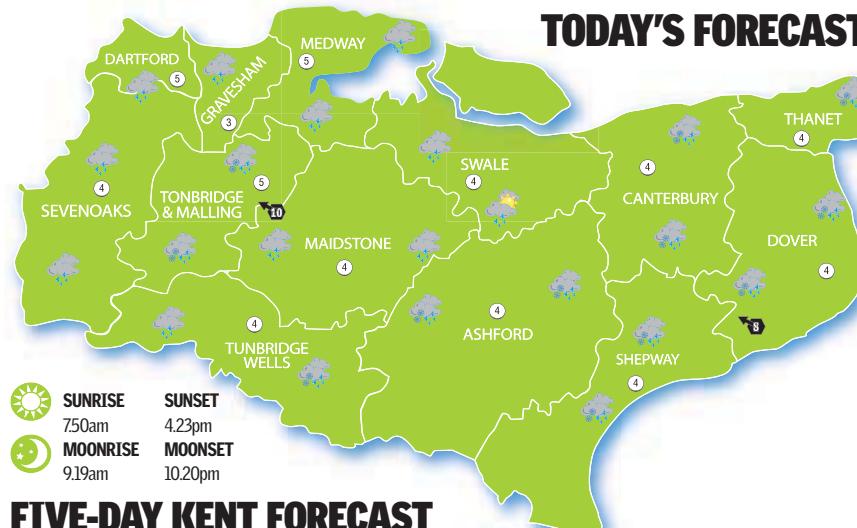
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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	7°C	4°C	6°C	9°C	7°C	Gravesend	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C
Canterbury	7°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	5°C	Maidstone	7°C	5°C	6°C	10°C	7°C
Chatham	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C	Ramsgate	7°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	5°C
Dartford	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C	Rochester	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C
Dover	6°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	3°C	4°C	8°C	5°C
Faversham	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C
Folkestone	6°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	5°C	Tonbridge	7°C	3°C	6°C	9°C	6°C
Gillingham	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C	7°C	Tun Wells	7°C	3°C	6°C	9°C	6°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:38pm	5.1m
	Sunday	6:35pm	4.9m
Dover	Saturday	3:42pm	5.6m
	Sunday	4:45pm	5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:53pm	6.5m
	Sunday	4:58pm	6.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:12pm	4.3m
	Sunday	5:15pm	4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	6:23pm	4.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:15pm	4.7m
	Sunday	6:12pm	4.5m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	3°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	11°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	11°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	-1°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	24°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	28°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	20°C	Warsaw	-2°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	16°C

RSPB cries out for the environment ahead of the election campaign

AS preparation for the election ramps up and the economy remains high on the political agenda, a new report from the RSPB is urging politicians not to sideline the environment.

The report, Challenge 2010, highlights money being wasted on environmentally-damaging policies and outlines how the Government could spend public money protecting nature and building a low-carbon economy.

In recent years, north Kent has benefited from Government investment in the Thames estuary through Parklands funding.

Damaging

The RSPB is calling on politicians to continue with such schemes and avoid investing in damaging developments.

The charity would also like to see more investment in Environmental Stewardship schemes for farmers to support them taking measures to benefit wildlife on their land.

With the recent passing of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, money should be spent similarly wisely on safeguarding our marine environment, says the society.

Serious investment will pay dividends, with improved management of the marine environment nationally netting £8.6 billion to £19.6 billion over 20 years – a return of between five and 26 times greater than the costs.

Chris Corrigan, of the RSPB, said: "In Kent we have some special landscapes – these often underpin local economies and are key reasons people choose to live in, work in and visit the area.

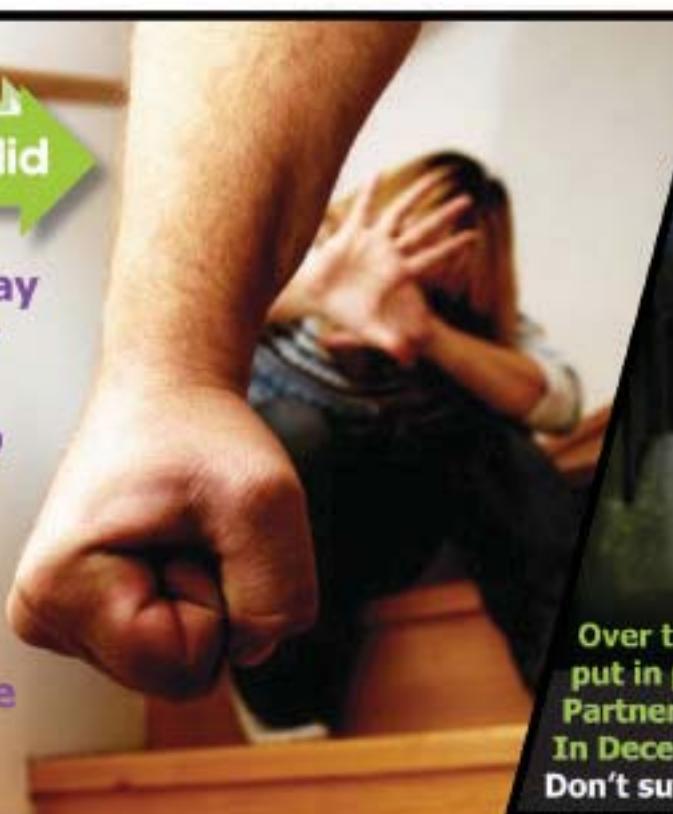
"This report is a rallying cry for politicians in the run-up to an election and at a time when they are struggling to reform our economy.

"The environment must not be sidelined – it should be at the heart of sustainable recovery."

you
said

we did

The Shepway Community Safety Partnership were concerned about domestic abuse in the Shepway district



Over the festive period, extra support was put in place by Shepway Community Safety Partnership to deal with the issue. In December 2009, over 50 people were arrested. Don't suffer in silence, report it



Domestic abuse occurs in all cultures. If you or someone else is suffering from domestic abuse, call Kent Police on 01622 690690.

In an emergency, dial 999. You can also call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247. For the deaf and speech impaired, text 'Police' to 60066. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

For actions on priorities where you live visit: www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid



yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JOANNA AMES



Q & A

The new chairman of Hythe Chamber of Commerce and Tourism spoke to **James Alexandre** about forming her own business, winning awards, the importance of coaching and how to beat the recession

Q Can you tell us something about yourself?

A I have two children, aged 29 and 28, two grandchildren, both aged two, and another due in July. Business-wise, after 15 years of running an international coach-tour business, I am developing new interests as well being chairman of the Hythe Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. I am vice-chairman of the Channel Chamber of Commerce.

Q How did you first become involved in the Hythe Chamber of Commerce and Tourism?

A It's so long ago, it's hard to remember, but when I owned En Route, in Red Lion Square, Hythe, I was invited to join the committee. I was already actively involved with tourism, nationally and locally.

Q What are the aims of the chamber?

A Supporting businesses and shops in Hythe by focusing on special projects that make the town that little bit different to anywhere else. Promoting Hythe in tourism and increasing visitors' footfall.

Many retailers still think much of what we do is actually done by the council. Things such as the Hythe Guide, putting up Christmas trees outside shops, arranging the late-night shopping and summer entertainment in the high street is all done by the chamber.

Q What can be done to help tackle the recession?

A It is not difficult to realise that the better we all pull together, the stronger Hythe, particularly as a visitor destination, becomes. Retailers need to help themselves more by coming together and by joining the chamber.

Q Do you think the Government, county, district and town councils are doing enough to help local businesses?

A At the end of the day, never rely on anyone else. If your business fails, it's probably as much down to you as external circumstances. I was never successful with grants. If you needed cash or support, it was never available for all sorts of reasons. I hate quangos anyway.

Q Tell us about the coach-tourism industry and the role it plays in our local economy.

A Coaches can, and do, support Hythe shops and attractions in a big way. When a coach stops in town, up to 50 people spend money they otherwise wouldn't have. I was a board member for four years on the Coach Tourism Council. Coaching is big business in tourism.

Q You have twice been named Kent Businesswoman of the Year. What advice would you give to those wanting to start their own enterprise?

A Probably my first thought would be: why? But there are people who want to and will. So my real advice is: be prepared to put the

hours in and commit, because if you don't, customers will find someone who will. Another tip, as a mum of two young children when I started my business, is to treat your children like your very best customers.

Q What do you hope to achieve with the chamber?

A More awareness of what the chamber does and our plans and to gain more support from retailers. I intend the committee to achieve everything we set out to do. Our plans will be constructive and targets achievable.

Q How can people find out more about the chamber?

A Email me at joanna@arrivee.co.uk, phone 01303 211341, click on the website www.hytheguide.co.uk/, or alternatively see vice-chairman Kevin Howell at Threshers in the high street.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A I visit Menorca when I can, sitting in the sun, ideally with a G&T. Other than that, spending time with my family.

Q Tell us something people don't know about you

A Last year I qualified as a health and safety consultant and adviser.

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A hole load of expensive trouble for KCC after heavy snow

COUNTY Hall is bracing itself for a torrent of compensation claims linked to the hundreds of potholes forming on Kent's roads.

Motorists forced to pay out for puncture and suspension damage repairs are expected to flood the council's mailbags with demands that the authority should foot the bill, at a potential cost to the taxpayer of tens of thousands of pounds.

The lengthy cold snap has left many of the county's major routes in a state of disrepair, with the potholes creating yet

another hazard for road-users already long fed up with the earlier snow and ice.

Last week KCC was forced to pay out £6,250 to Welling resident Kenneth Atkinson, who suffered a badly-dislocated shoulder after falling from his bicycle in May 2007.

The 76-year-old has since been forced to give up his hobby following the pothole encounter, for which the council initially denied liability.

Mr Atkinson's lawyer Paul Kitson, partner at Russell Jones

and Walker, said: "This case illustrates the difficulties in obtaining compensation from highway authorities.

"They rarely admit liability for accidents involving road defects and it is usually necessary to issue court proceedings.

"The claim was delayed due to arguments between KCC and its third-party contractors [Scotia Gas Networks]. The pothole in question had been repaired previously, but at the time of Mr Atkinson's accident it was five feet long and four inches deep."

The severity of the pothole problem became clear on Tuesday when at least eight drivers had to pull over on the M20 after suffering punctures to their tyres as a result of a particularly deep one.

To make a claim, visit the roads and transport section of www.kent.gov.uk and click on 'fault reporting' followed by 'claims for damage'.

• **Would we all be better off driving 4x4s in the county? See this week's Yourblogger on page 14.**

Police admit illegal stop and searching

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

KENT Police have admitted using stop-and-search powers illegally in what could prove a landmark case for Kingsnorth Climate Camp protestors.

Lawyers representing Chief Constable Mike Fuller told the High Court the force accepted that its officers wrongfully searched at least three demonstrators – including 11-year-old twins – who attended the summer 2008 rally.

They also admitted that an unspecified number of other protestors could have been unlawfully stopped, potentially opening the door for further legal action to be brought against the police.

Hundreds of similar cases are already going through the system, with one lawyer describing the cost to the taxpayer as potentially "staggering".

However, Mr Fuller's representative Richard Perks told the two High Court judges it was not accepted that the police had secretly applied a blanket unlawful stop-and-search policy at the camp.

He said there had been a "clear and lawful" policy and that the huge majority of those stopped had not been done so illegally but accepted there had been "a misapplication of a clear policy by officers on the ground".



POLICE UNDER FIRE: Demonstrators at Kingsnorth have always claimed the police response to the protest was disproportionate to the threat posed by activists

Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 states that officers must have "reasonable suspicion" that an individual is carrying prohibited weapons or articles that could be used for criminal damage before they are stopped and searched.

Mr Perks added that while guidance given to individual officers was correct and accurate, "on occasions it was misapplied in practice".

The announcement came just hours after the European Court of Human Rights ruled it illegal for police to use terror laws to stop and search people without grounds for suspicion.

Home Secretary Alan Johnson said he was disappointed with the decision and would

appeal against it.

The environmental rally at Kingsnorth in summer 2008 was over E.ON's plans to build a new coal-fired power station, which the company put on hold for up to three years last October.

Politicians, protestors and academics involved in the demonstration have always claimed the police response was disproportionate to the threat posed by the activists.

Officers were also accused of being heavy-handed with the campaigners, seizing hundreds of personal items including soap and board games.

They also took a clown's wig, crayons and highlighter pens belonging to the twin children involved in last week's High Court hearing.

The judges heard how one of the youngsters – who cannot be named for legal reasons – was left "crying and shaking" after a female officer said he had to be searched.

He feared he would "go to prison" because he had stickers in his bag which other people had had confiscated.

Long-standing environmental campaigner David Morris, from north London, was also at the court and said he was forcibly searched against his will.

All three are seeking judicial review into police powers and potential damages.

The case has been adjourned while further evidence is considered before a settlement is reached or a full court hearing called for.

Kent Police declined to comment.



JOB INTERVIEW: Mike Fuller was questioned by MPs

Fuller puts himself forward as head of Prosecution Service

KENTS Chief Constable Michael Fuller has told MPs why he believes he should be appointed the next head of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to replace current Chief Inspector Stephen Wooler, whose contract at the CPS expires at the end of March.

An announcement regarding Mr Fuller's future is due to be made tomorrow (Thursday).

Last week he told members of the House of Commons justice committee why he thought he was a more suitable choice for the role than a former judge or lawyer.

Experience

He said: "While I don't have knowledge of the day-to-day work of a crown prosecutor, I still bring a lot of knowledge of the system and experience of being a stockholder of the CPS."

"I have experience of running organisations and police departments successfully."

Mr Fuller told the committee that adjusting to policy changes and providing value for money represented two of the biggest challenges for the Chief Inspector of the CPS but that he was fully prepared to cope with both.

He also refuted a suggestion by Sleaford and North Hykeham MP Douglas Hogg that the police and CPS had an "incestuous" relationship and were too closely linked for one to be scrutinised by the other.

Mr Fuller said: "Decision-making has always been independent and I think the public would see me as someone who would bring objectivity and scrutiny where it's needed."

"You need a certain degree of knowledge of the CPS and how it works, and more importantly of the rubbing points. I've seen them first-hand and can therefore make recommendations that are credible."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as Chief Constable in January 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.



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yourblogger

Gary Wright urges all motorists to report potholes and claim for any resulting damage to their vehicles



Why weren't our roads ready for the inevitable big freeze?

IF ever there was an argument for driving a huge 4x4, then Kent's roads provide it.

The appalling state of maintenance in this county is highlighted every winter as freezing conditions cause huge cracks to open up.

Potholes cost drivers a heap of cash, wrecking tyres, alloy wheels and suspension. Tyre-dealers doubtless rub their hands with glee, but for the rest of us it's an annual nuisance.

We should not put up with it. But if we have to, then it's time to consider a 4x4 instead of the stylish, economical motors that our green chums would have us all drive.

Report every pothole you see to 08458 247 800. That way the council has to do something and it has been informed.

We all know you can claim for the damage to your car, provided – as the council's website makes clear – you can prove "clear evidence that Kent County Council (KCC) has been

negligent in its role as highway authority".

Well, I suggest KCC is always negligent through lack of proper care and preparation.

The council has promised it will blitz our roads and carry out repairs... in March.

That is just not good enough. It means six weeks or so of swerving around the canyons that have opened up in our streets. Surely KCC should address the problem right now?

Freezing weather is no surprise. The fact that our poorly-maintained roads crack up at the first sign of frost is no surprise. So KCC should be prepared, and if it isn't, that's negligent.

I watched KCC leader Paul Carter squirm as Meridian TV interviewed him about the pothole problem. Asked about compensation for wrecked wheels and tyres, he mumbled something about "looking after public money", suggesting not every wrecked car would be paid for out of the public purse.

Shame KCC wasn't so careful with our cash when £50 million was handed over to doomed Icelandic banks, really.

The council's annual budget for potholes is £3 million, apparently, and a spokesman said:

"Kent Highway Services had already set aside an extra £576,000 to take account of an expected increased workload due to bad weather – and the additional £1 million comes on top of this."

It is not enough.

Then Cllr Carter dressed it up by making it look as though it was supporting local business by inviting them to help with the repairs.

He said: "We are keen to use small and medium-sized engineering companies from across Kent. They will be encouraged to bid for tenders to repair our roads as part of our Backing Kent Business campaign. We hope this will provide a welcome boost for local business."

Hmm, I'm not so sure other small businesses running cars and vans will feel quite so supported after shelling out for vehicle repairs.

If your car has been damaged, visit www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport and go to 'fault reporting'. Happy motoring.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: We want your letters, comments and views. Send your submissions to editor Dave Mairs at dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

Write to Editor Dave Mairs, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

• We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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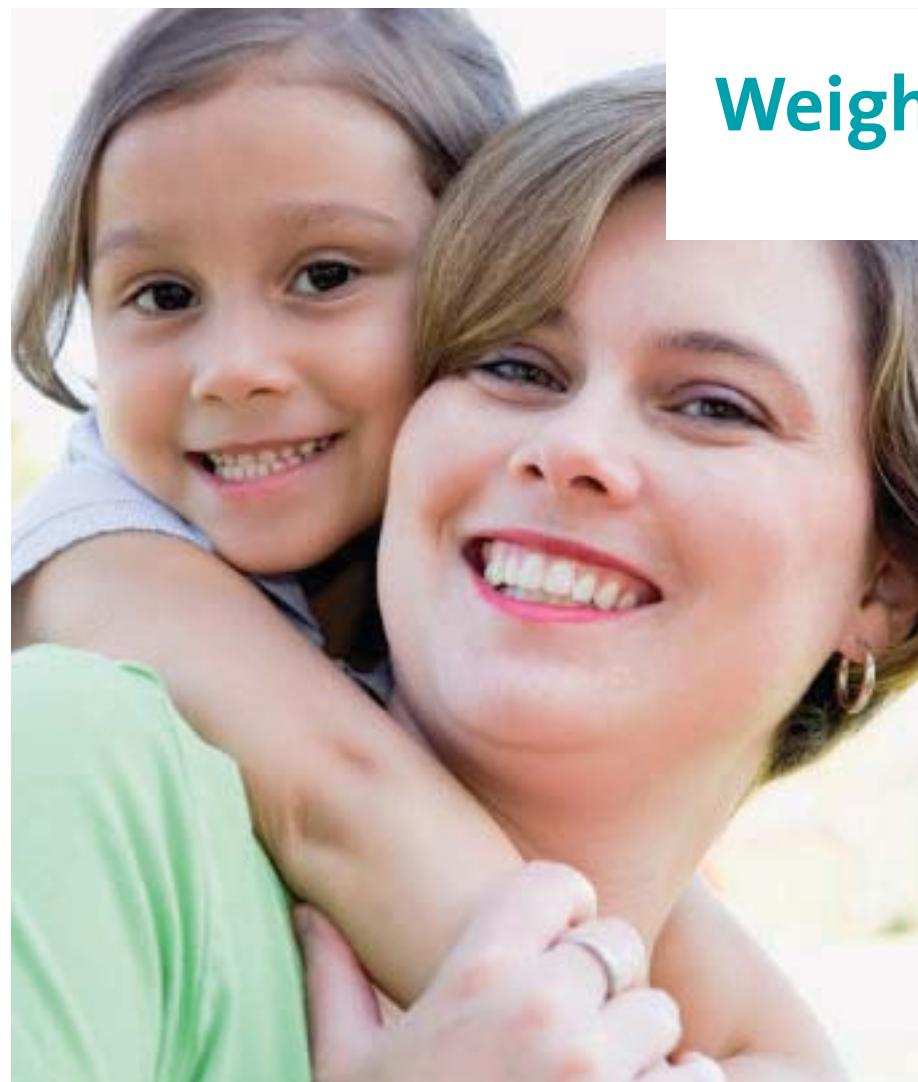
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Commuters face further fare rise

Government policy stings rail travellers

COMMUTERS across Kent are facing higher travel charges following a Government review of transport policy.

And train passengers parking in many of the station car parks will now also find they have to fork out more money on parking costs.

The changes – which came into effect last week – form part of the Department for Transport's new policy which involves reducing the subsidies it pays into the industry.

As a result, commuter fares for Southeastern's unregulated off-peak tickets have increased by 7.3 per cent, and others by 2.8 per cent.

Fares from outside the Travelcard area, including the London Underground, have seen a 1.6 per cent increase.

Subsidy

Some ticket prices, however, have stayed the same.

A spokesman for Southeastern said: "Government says the budget for running the cost of the railways should not be paid by subsidies through the taxpayer."

"The Government has stated that it should be put back on those who use the service – it will not subsidise the cost of the railways like in Europe."

"What Government is doing is reducing the subsidies it pays to us, but to compensate it is allowing us to increase the ticket prices."

Charles Horton, managing director at Southeastern, added: "The majority of our passengers are commuters who travel into London on a daily basis."

"Most of these are season-ticket-holders and any changes to their fares are regulated by the Department for Transport."

"The Government's stated policy is to reduce the subsidy paid to the transport industry and for passengers to pay more towards the cost of using rail services."

■ BY MARIJKE COX

But Tunde Olatunji, South East spokesman for Passenger Focus, an independent rail consumer watchdog, believes commuters will place the blame with Southeastern rather than with the Government.

He said: "Southeastern may use the lack of Government subsidies as its defence, but for the passenger it is Southeastern they pay the money to and therefore the company people will hold responsible for the changes."

"This all comes down to value for money. If costs are increasing, the passengers will want to see the service improving."

Car-parking costs have also gone up at the majority of station car parks in Kent, but Southeastern defended this by saying it was the first change the company had made in 18 months.

"In terms of car-parking, the majority of station car-park prices have gone up by differing amounts," a spokesman said.

"This has been done to help cover running costs."

"This hasn't changed in 18 months, so we are simply bringing this in line with what has to be paid to Network Rail and money for the upkeep of the car parks."

Mr Olatunji said that although car-parking was a business and people had to pay to park, the level of service should be kept up.

"Passengers have to pay parking costs, otherwise there would be too much pressure on the car parks," he said.

"The issue is about how much Southeastern charges in relation to the level of service offered."

"There was a case at Hollingbourne station where a car was stolen but when the police checked the CCTV there was no tape in there."

"If people are paying money to park, then the service should be sufficient."

For more information about Southeastern trains and ticket prices, you can go to www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.

REGULATED FARES FROM JANUARY 2010

STATION	2009		JANUARY 2010			
	Return	Monthly	Annual	Return	Monthly	Annual
Orpington	£9.80	£139	£1,448	£9.80	£139	£1,448
Tonbridge	£22.90	£288	£3,000	£23.30	£292.60	£3,048
Hastings	£46.30	£368.60	£3,840	£47.10	£368.60	£3,840
Ashford Int	£40.60	£362.90	£3,780	£41.30	£368.60	£3,840
Ashford Int	£48.70	£435.50	£4,536	£49.50	£442.40	£4,608
High Speed						
Ramsgate	£47.00	£366.70	£3,820	£47.80	£372.50	£3,880
Ramsgate	£55.10	£439.30	£4,576	£56.00	£446.20	£4,648
High Speed						
Faversham	£35.90	£345.60	£3,600	£36.50	£351	£3,656
Faversham	£41.30	£415.90	£4,332	£41.90	£422	£4,396
High Speed						

OFF-PEAK (UNREGULATED) DAY RETURN FROM JAN 2010

STATION	OFF-PEAK RETURN		SUPER OFF-PEAK RTN	
	2009	Jan 2010	2009	Jan 2010
Sevenoaks	£8.80	£9.40	n/a	n/a
Margate (not HS)	£25.30	£27.10	£18.10	£18.60
Hastings	£24.20	£26.00	£18.10	£18.60
Sittingbourne	£16.00	£17.20	£14.10	£14.50
Sittingbourne	£18.70	£20.10	n/a	n/a
High Speed				
Folkestone Central	£24.60	£26.40	£18.10	£18.60
Folkestone Central	£28.70	£30.80	n/a	n/a
High Speed				

Heavy cost of modern funerals

FUNERALS can be big affairs, and they are getting larger all the time.

As people get heavier, the dearly departed are causing problems in death, say undertakers.

John Weir runs several undertakers' offices in Kent and is also the UK spokesman for the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors.

He said that although the complications caused by oversize bodies was not widespread yet, it was getting worse as we ate more in life.

His company has invested in a powerful electric hoist to move bodies around and lower them into larger-than-life coffins, and he said many hospital mortuaries had done the same.

The complications continue when it comes to the funeral itself.

Crane have been known to lift coffins into double-sized graves before the congregation arrives to avoid any embarrassing scenes.

Some councils are charging by the foot for their graves – so the bigger the body and coffin, the more the plot costs.

Mr Weir said: "Crematoria don't usually do that – it's one just one flat charge."

But he said Vinters Park in Maidstone had recently introduced a larger cremator which was 41 inches wide as opposed to the more usual 28 inches wide just to cope with an increase in larger coffins.

He said there was a knock-on effect for the taxpayer as local authorities had to pay for the new cremators. Plus, with larger graves, cemeteries ran out of valuable space quicker, forcing some authorities to reuse old plots.

Coffin-maker Julian Atkinson said his products were now larger by two inches in length and width.

"We used to do one a month that was oversized, now it is two or three a week," he said.

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Day trip promotion, free wine and meal offer are all subject to full terms and conditions available online at POferries.com/daytrip.

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yourcompetition

Let Valet take care of Valentine's Day



WITH just weeks to go to Valentine's Day, people are starting to think of the perfect gift for their partner, and often it is men who prove the most challenging to buy for.

Valet Canterbury, a traditional barber shop for the 21st century, is offering four lucky winners the chance to win the ideal experience for the cosmopolitan man, and just in time for Valentine's Day! Anyone wanting their partner to look and feel at their best should make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

Winners will receive a treatments and product package worth over £100, consisting of a full body massage, express facial and £30 of Dermalogica skin products following a consultation with one of Valet's qualified therapists.

Guy Noble, director at Valet, said: "Valet is all about giving men some time out from their hectic lives. Often men don't organise this for themselves, so this competition allows people to treat their partners and give them the relaxation they deserve, while also convincing them to allocate some me-time in the future."

Valet offers male grooming, including traditional wet shaves with a 'master barber', as well as a wide range of body treatments, such as manicure, pedicure and sports massage.

Located in Butchery Lane, just off Burgate, Valet is a modern man's retreat, offering customers the latest newspapers, Sky Sports, free wifi and fine coffee.



For more details about facilities and treatments visit www.valet-canterbury.com.

For a chance to win, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Valet Competition, KOS Media, Apple

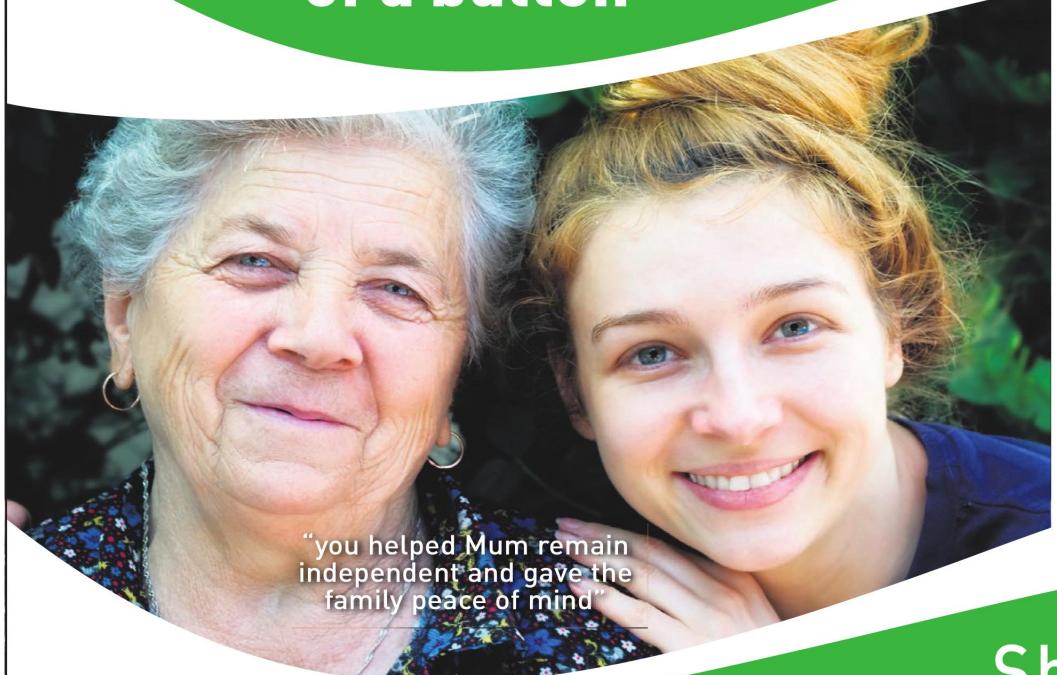
Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 10, 2009.

Question: In which city is Valet situated?

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UCF students perform well to get degrees

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

PERFORMING-arts students at University Centre Folkestone made their debut when they graduated at a formal ceremony held at Canterbury Cathedral.

The group of 11, the first to graduate from UCF with a BA in Performing Arts, joined 733 others from Canterbury Christ Church at the special event led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Wright and Pro-Chancellor Peter Hermitage.

UCF graduate Joanne Perks said: "I enjoyed my graduation day very much and it shall be a day I remember forever."

"I thought that the music and singing within the graduation ceremony was a lovely addition and organised very well, making the day very enjoyable."

"Now that I have graduated, I am currently running my own business called Metamorphosis Belly Dance in Kent."

"I carry out weekly lessons in Canterbury and Folkestone, performing at various events and parties, run workshops for schools and also put on weekly performances in the Azouma restaurant in Canterbury."

Sue Blakesley, another UCF graduate, said: "I really enjoyed the graduation day. It was great to have our three years of hard work acknowledged in such magnificent surroundings."

Chris Price, campus director and performing-arts programme director at UCF, said: "I was delighted to see the first performing-arts graduates receive their Canterbury Christ Church University degrees in the cathedral."

"For them, it was the culmination of three years of extremely hard work – they earned that degree, every one of them."

"For me and my colleagues, it was the culmination of five or six years' work on the planning and delivery of the degree. But it was worth it – they made us proud."

University Centre Folkestone, based at the refurbished 30,000 sq ft Glassworks in Mill Bay near the harbour, is at the heart of the town's Creative Quarter.

A joint partnership between Canterbury Christ Church and the University of Greenwich, UCF is intended to provide a powerful regenerative force in the academic, social and economic development of the area and boost local rates in higher education, which are below the regional average.

To find out more about the short- and full-time courses available, go to www.ucf.ac.uk, or phone free on 0800 804 8500.

BREAK TIME

First panto stars are full of beans

PANTO characters took to the stage at Newington community primary school last month when students put on their first-ever drama club production.

Pupils from years three to six acted out the magical story of Jacqueline And The Beanstalk, which they had adapted from one of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes.

Fun and songs involving the audience formed part of the show, which was held on Saturday, December 18.

Costumes were made by teaching assistant Carol Sayer.

The production was directed by assistant head-teacher Helen Radford together with literacy coordinator and year six teacher Ellen Butcher.

Helen said before the show: "This is the pupils' first Christmas pantomime

the drama club was formed and they are buzzing with excitement.

"They have worked very hard in a short space of time to get the production together and huge credit goes to the actors and the stage and lighting crew who have all done a wonderful job in creating a fantastic festive show."



IT'S BEHIND THEM: The cast celebrate the success of their drama club's first pantomime



BEST IN SHOW: Performing-arts students from University Centre Folkestone on graduation day at Canterbury Cathedral

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TALK TIME

SIMON CHAMBERS

The co-founder of the Dover War Memorial Project spoke about the life of Walter Tull and rediscovering the area's historic connections.



Tell us something about yourself

I spent almost all of my working life with the BBC, so I am never happier than when I have a camera in my hand. I find people fascinating: everyone has different interests and a story to tell.

What are the aims of the Dover War Memorial Project?

To honour all those Dovorians who died in both World Wars. To ensure that future generations always remember the sacrifices and bravery of their forebears

How important a role model do you believe Walter Tull is?

A much-loved son and brother, Walter Tull was one of many who lost their lives. Brought up with strong faith and family values, he overcame many adversities to attain success in two careers. He portrays hope, and inspires us by his self-sacrifice, dignity, and integrity of character.

How can people find out more about the project and get involved?

I urge anyone with information about a Dover casualty to contact the project. People can join the Friends of the Dover War Memorial Project, or sign up for their quarterly e-newsletter. Everyone who works on the project is a volunteer; across the world they do a variety of tasks, such as transcribing or visiting and photographing graves. Or please help by sending a donation – details at www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk

YOUR LETTERS

Much more needed on climate change

IN reply to Michael Walsh of FLAG (last week's letters), firstly as regards the far right's Harry Williams, I just advise him and his ilk to get to the nearest Adult Education Centre, or at least the library, to obtain an education in matters social and scientific so as to get a life and stop bothering everyone else with their racist and bigoted views.

Even his party's leader, Nick Griffin, was recently thrashed on the BBC's Question Time programme, including by himself, as others in his party said.

As for climate change etc, my letter was held over from during the Copenhagen talks, but my views remain much the same, as well as agreeing with Stuart Cox of East Kent Friends of the Earth last week regarding the sadly dangerous-for-the-world outcome.

Far more than what is proposed to be signed in Mexico City next December needs to be done, and urgently.

Further, anyone thinking that the recent cold, snowy weather goes against global warming, I just point out that it was just an occasional Arctic variation, coupled with climate change, which brought heavier-than-usual snow rather than more heavy rain.

Incidentally, Alaska and northern Canada were 10-15 degrees warmer than they should have been!

In the UK, the fact that our public transport was again caught out shows how little care

and attention is shown by either train companies or Government during such periods and bodes ill for the future.

As regards Mr Taylor, while I continue to disagree with him over global warming, I do agree with him regarding the need to get ID cards ditched and the surveillance society reversed.

The recent debacle of Press photographers and ordinary people and tourists being stopped and searched merely for taking a picture has thankfully now been ruled illegal by the EU Court of Human Rights.

As for Lydd airport, which Mr Walsh supports, I still, as with most on the Marsh, fully oppose it.

I would like to point out that the airline industry is likely to lose £3.5 billion in 2010 and the Government's Climate Change Committee has clearly stated that the industry will have to be limited to a 40 per cent growth target instead of the previously expected 200 per cent if we have any hope of meeting carbon reduction targets.

Passenger numbers continue to fall, with people holidaying in the UK instead.

Indeed, why not book a break in Cumbria this year to help them recover, after the latest deluge, instead of going abroad?

Regarding political-party membership, I left 'neo-con' Labour in 1998, never to return because I could see even then what 'Phoney' Blair and his cohorts were about.

While I am more in agreement with the Greens now, though I dislike party hierarchies, I would largely tend to support their efforts.

As for the forthcoming general election, I can only say to all:

ditch the Tories and neo-con Labour entirely and vote for the Greens, where standing, or the LibDems.

Ray Duff
Folkestone

Poor penalised by pre-payment meter

THE other morning, Energy Minister David Kidney MP posted the following tweet:

"At my desk preparing for scrutiny of the Energy Bill – Labour's delivery of 4 clean coal projects and money off poorer people's fuel bills."

I find it quite incredible that the Government is still refusing to use the Bill to outlaw premiums for pre-pay customers.

Figures from Ofgem show that pre-payment meter customers are charged on average £189 a year more for their energy than customers with standard meters.

Statistics from National Energy Action also show that those using prepayment meters are generally those on lower-than-average incomes who can least afford to pay more.

Almost a quarter have an annual income of less than £10,000.

As expected, pre-payment meters are more likely to be used by lone parents, those in receipt of benefits, those with no bank account and those with payment difficulties.

But there are also people who use them simply to help juggle the family finances.

This is a scourge penalising the poor. It is scandalous that the energy companies can get away with charging their poorest such high rates for something that's a

necessity and should be trying to help, not push people further into debt.

Cllr Julie Rook (Conservative)
North Deal ward, Dover District Council

Looking forward to another top year

A YEAR ago we voiced the opinion that there were good reasons to believe that the Shepway corner of Kent was better positioned than most holiday and leisure destinations to weather the storms ahead.

And so, happily, it has proved; 2009 turned out to be a very good year for most hotels, guest houses, B&Bs, restaurants, attractions and other visitor-dependent businesses.

Some claim it was the best for a long time.

That's the good news. Now for 2010. Undoubtedly, the year poses big challenges, but we stick to our opinion that Shepway's unique assets and attractions are powerful advantages in the business of attracting visitors.

As the 'official' tourism information and marketing agency for Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh, DFH&RM is confidently engaged in a big programme of promotion activities in key markets.

We believe it's reasonable to start the New Year with optimism.

Chris Kirkham
Discover Folkestone & Romney Marsh

Let visiting drivers face same rules

WITHOUT any doubt, huge



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numbers of French motorists will be attracted to Dover and other local areas on day trips as spring approaches.

The two main reasons will be the disastrous exchange rate (for Brits) and the opening in Dover this month of what I firmly believe is this country's best supermarket chain, Morrisons.

These visitors won't believe their eyes when they see the great difference between French and UK prices, particularly in foodstuffs for humans and pets.

However, many French drivers have little or no regard for our road-traffic laws, especially those concerning parking.

Drive to France and so-called offenders will be shown no mercy and dealt with on the spot.

How many vehicles come here without headlight adjustment and half-a-dozen other adjustments which we must have over there?

It is frustrating to see so many illegally-parked cars, particularly here in Deal, where some are parked most of the day.

A penalty notice, when occasionally given, does nothing to remedy the situation. But let a UK motorist take a chance for a few minutes and there is no escape.

Councils should – and must – get organised, which they are definitely not, and have these arrogant visitors' vehicles clamped and/or impounded without delay.

It isn't rocket science – all it needs is a little organisation and commitment.

A little publicity at their port of departure and serious enforcement and this problem will be much improved.

Will anything be done? Let's wait and see, but I doubt it.

David Kane
Deal

Tories ignored warning over new gritting system

THOSE of us who tried to get around the town centre of Deal in the days before Christmas will know how difficult it was.

The only way to make any progress without risking a fall was to walk in the road and risk being knocked down.

The lack of pavement-gritting stems from the decision by the Tory administration at Kent County Council to centralise the highways service at depots in Ashford and Wrotham, at a cost of £17.5 million.

The Wrotham site had to be abandoned at an additional cost to the council taxpayers of Kent.

The Ashford site, however, is up and running. But the result has been the lack of local knowledge and accountability, which led to the pre-Christmas pantomime on the pavements of Deal.

This kind of problem was predicted repeatedly at the county council's scrutiny committee, but the Tories nevertheless pressed on with their 'one-size-fits-all' policy.

The Christmas shoppers and traders of Deal have suffered the consequences.

Cllr Mike Eddy (Labour)
Mill Hill ward, Dover District Council

Do you need care in your home? Saga Independent Living can help

As you get older, you may find it harder to manage the household chores and need personal care too. However, you don't want to lose your independence and go into a care home leaving behind your home, family and neighbourhood.

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Funnier than a broken record

Comedy legends are sketching out their success

PAPPY'S

Thursday, February 4
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



LOCAL heroes return to Canterbury next month to attempt a world record with their lightning wit.

Pappy's are an award-winning comedy trio who have taken the circuit by storm with their ridiculous humour and silly characters. Now they have set their sights on a place in the record books by performing 200 sketches in an hour.

The trio have just had a fantastic year in which they enjoyed a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and earned five-star reviews for their uplifting show. Previously they had

recorded their own shows for Channel 4 and Radio 4, appeared on BBC3's Comedy Shuffle and ITV2's Comedy Cuts and received a number of award nominations. In 2008 they won the Chortle Best Sketch Act Award and the plaudits keep coming for their imaginative work.

Pappy's Fun Club started out as four students - Matthew Crosby from Bromley, Tom Parry, Ben Clark and Brendan Dodds - who performed comedy to entertain their friends; the three of them had met at the University of Kent.

Before long they had been nominated for the If.Comedy Best Show Award at Edinburgh, a prestigious accolade that got their comedy careers off to a flying start.

The team like to gig on the stand-

up club circuit and in that environment bringing down the 'fourth wall' erected by many sketch troupes has been invaluable.

The performers address the audience directly and like to react to anything that might be happening in the room during sketches.

Their success on the circuit and at Edinburgh resulted in TV interest, including a 22-minute Comedy Lab for Channel 4. Pappy's had the chance to work with Ash Atalla, producer of The Office, and relished the chance to translate their stage material to the screen.

They went on to perform around the world and draw high praise from critics, though Dodds left the group at the end of last year and the remaining trio decided to continue under the name Pappy's.

You can see them attempt to break a world record when the show, which is suitable for over-14s, starts at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £12 or £10 for Encore!Gulbenkian members. To book, phone 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.



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DAVE GORMAN

Wednesday, February 24
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



COMEDIAN Dave Gorman got on his bike last year to bring laughter to fans across Britain.

For his 2009 tour, Gorman decided to travel in eco-friendly style and cycle from venue to venue. Because of this pledge, the comic covered more than 1,500 miles in 33 days, performing a gig each night.

The aptly-named tour – Dave Gorman: Sit Down, Pedal, Pedal, Stop and Stand Up – was such a success that demand has continued into this year, but now Gorman is ditching the bicycle and taking a break from pedalling.

Gorman is something of a pioneer in the field of documentary comedy, having undertaken various experiments and road trips in search of laughs. But next month's show sees him going back to his roots as a stand-up comedian.

It is the same show with which he toured last year, described by a critic as "mercilessly sharp and original", just without the bicycle clips and blisters.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £18.50. To book, call the box office on 0844 847 1776 or book at www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



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MAVERICK LIVE

Monday, January 25
Breeze Bar, Maidstone



INTERNATIONAL music stars grace the stage in a double-headline show for Maverick Live next week.

Talented and creative, Kimmie Rhodes has been a cult figure in the music business during her long career. For more than 25 years, the Texas songbird has been writing and performing beautiful music that has made her a mainstay of the Austin music scene.

Her talent as a songwriter has been noticed by big stars and her songs have been covered by the likes of Waylon Jennings, Wynonna, Willie Nelson, Trisha Yearwood, Amy Grant, Mark Knopfler and Emmylou Harris.

Also appearing is Holly Williams (pictured), granddaughter of music icon Hank Williams and son of Hank Williams Jr.

She avoided following in her musical family's footsteps for several years and when she did finally pick up a guitar she opted for a more introspective approach to songwriting rather than the country sound so associated with the Williams family.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15 in advance or £18 on the door. To book, phone 01622 744481.

**ST NICHOLAS**

Saturday, January 23
Canterbury Cathedral



THE joy of childhood is celebrated in Benjamin Britten's playful work St Nicolas.

Canterbury Choral Society performs the work as its first concert of the year, demonstrating the contrast of lightness and seriousness that makes St Nicolas such a unique piece.

As the patron saint of sailors, scholars and children, St Nicolas was the perfect inspiration for this celebration of youthfulness.

Children are involved in the work, so the Choral Society Youth Choir will be appearing as the semi-chorus.

Soloist Timothy Robinson studied music at New College Oxford, then at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has sung in a diverse range of operas such as Falstaff, Tristan and Isolda, as well as working with many great orchestras. These include the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

The programme also features Michael Tippett's joyful Concerto for Double String Orchestra, Percy Grainger's Handel in the Strand and Londonderry Air and Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings/Agnus Dei.

**SHEPWAY LEISURE****Pete Abbott's back for more jazz at The Grand**

POPULAR jazz quartet the Pete Abbott Group return to The Grand in Folkestone this week.

Led by Abbott on guitar, the group feature Ivan Thompson of Hullabaloo fame on saxes, Andy Wall on bass, Roger Jeffery on drums and Claire Harris on vocals. They will be in Keppels Music Room from 8.30pm and admission costs £5. For details, phone 01303 260330.

Supergroup head new season at Quarterhouse

THE new season of live music gets under way at Quarterhouse with a concert featuring four great bands.

On Friday, the underground supergroup Spy Catcher will perform, along with The Painted Smiles, Jairus and Alaska. The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7. To book, call the box office on 01303 858500 or visit the website at www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

Juicy Lucy still fresh after all these years

LEGENDARY band Juicy Lucy will be demonstrating why they are still fresh at a gig in Folkestone this weekend.

With roots in the late 60s, the band play great original material and are still winning fans today. Find out more about them at www.juicylucyinfo.co.uk.

They will be at The Frenchman in Christchurch Road at 9pm on Saturday. For details, call the pub on 01303 259815.

Heroes to the rescue with mod and ska fix

LEADING tribute band Heroes will be celebrating the best of new wave, mod and ska music later this week.

The band will play hits by The Jam, The Clash, Blondie, Billy Idol and more at the Golden Arrow in Enbrook Valley, Cheriton, on Friday. Check them out at www.heroesnew.com.

For details about the venue, phone the pub on 01303 248706.

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There is also a Pevonia product of the month – a Smooth and Tone Body Svelte Cream with a free Seaweed exfoliating soap.

Luxury brand Kerastase is the salon's top hair care product, which offers incredible results, and a new body wrap treatment which is great for aches and pains as well as arthritis sufferers is proving very popular.

The Moor Mud Body Wrap is already proving a big hit with customers and is ideal for this time of year, helping with aches and pains in the cold weather.

The whole building makes customers relaxed and is an ideal space for them to be pampered, with informal décor based around a boutique chic spa salon.

Every month special treatments are made available so customers can try something new every time they walk through the door.

New Year detox, Mother's Day and Prom Queen makeovers are available as a collection of "experiences" for those who want something special.

January sees half-price manicures and pedicures as well as a half-price stone massage, lasting 90 minutes. The month also sees a free cut and finish with every full head of colour.



Next month will see half-priced facials.

Tim Flanagan took over the business in March 2008 and relaunched it as the White House a year ago and improvements are ongoing. From Tuesday to Thursday and on

Saturdays the business is open from 9am to 5pm, while the doors remain open for an extra couple of hours on Fridays.

The White House, 28 Victoria Road, Deal, CT14 7BH
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Facials are also a speciality of the salon along with massage treatments.

Anti-cellulite treatments are available and non-surgical facelifts are becoming more popular while the range of Susan Molyneux environmentally-friendly products are a big seller.

The well-established business is in the centre of Folkestone, convenient for those who want to visit in their lunch break.

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These toning beds mimic the muscle movements which occur during exercise and can be placed on whatever part of the body needs to be toned up, tightening sagging muscles and visibly decreasing unwanted inches. In sum-



mer toning beds are extremely popular and discounted rates are offered for wedding packages.

The salon is open on Monday from 9am to 4pm, Tuesday 10 am – 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9am – 8pm, Friday 10am – 6pm and Saturday 10am – 5pm.

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The Regatta Hair Salon is an up-to-date, friendly cutting and colouring service within the Churchill Hotel on Dover waterfront.

A friendly and relaxing atmosphere puts clients at ease. The salon, owned by Gillian Smissen, prides itself on customer service and offers unisex and stylish hair dressing.

Gillian always wanted to be a hairdresser and went into the trade after leaving school.

Now her premises are regarded as one of the best in the area and are extremely popular with those who want their crowning glory to look and feel its very best. Lanza Ultimate treatment and Lanza Powder texturiser are among the most popular treatments.

On Saturday, January 30, a cabaret hair show will take place in memory of Ross Excel, who passed away due to muscular dystrophy, and will feature dancers and singers Jude Adams, Paul Barker and Jenna Cook.

Models including the Smisson Brothers will also be taking part and tickets cost £15.



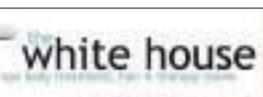
Offers include 25 per cent off a cut and style, hair and make-up for £35, special student and senior rates and 30 per cent off a first colouring visit. Bridal parties including hair, make-up and nail painting are a speciality.

The salon is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9am to 5pm, Thursdays 9am to 5.30pm and Fridays and Wednesdays from 9am to 6pm.

Regatta Hair Salon, Churchill Hotel, Dover Waterfront, CT17 9BP (phone 01304 208085, web www.regattahairsalon.co.uk)

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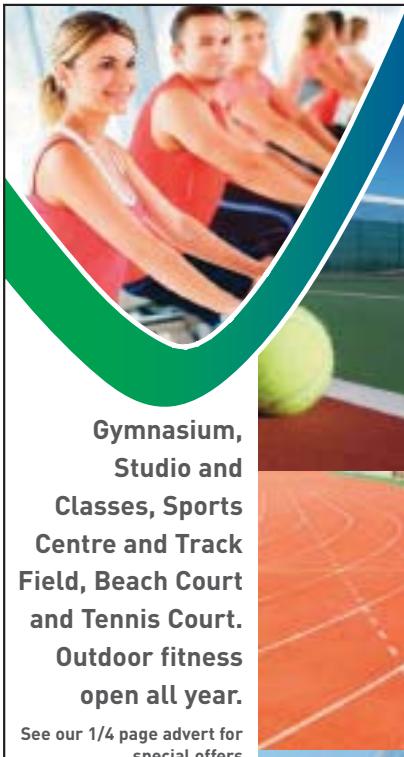


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IN STORE

Isle movie Ruby Blue is out on DVD next month

AWARD-WINNING Kent film Ruby Blue will be available to buy on DVD from Monday, February 1.

Filmed locally by Isle-based company Medb Films, the movie starred Bob Hoskins and won numerous accolades, such as Best Film at the London Independent Film Festival and the Grand Jury Best Film Award at the Washington DC Independent Film Festival.

The DVD can be pre-ordered at www.amazon.co.uk.

Hairy Bikers are riding into Bluewater today

FANS of the Hairy Bikers will want to make tracks to Bluewater next week when the TV stars pay a visit.

Si King and Dave Myers will be appearing at Waterstone's at 5pm today, to sign copies of their new cookery book. Mums Know Best: the Hairy Bikers' Family Cookbook accompanies their new TV series, in which they look at the culinary gems passed down through generations.

The book is priced at £20. For more information call 01322 624831.

Give your taste buds a genuine taste of Italy

ENJOY a taste of Italy on a budget with Carluccio's bargain Menu Della Casa.

The Italian cafés in Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells and Bluewater are inviting diners to try a two-course meal for just £8.50.

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The offer runs until the end of February. For more information, visit www.carluccios.com.

Become a Down Under beauty at Debenhams

DISCOVER the Australian beauty range Natio for less with a new offer available at Debenhams.

The products are stocked at the Chatham and Gravesend stores, giving Kent customers the chance to sample this big hit from Down Under.

And until Sunday, January 31, shoppers can enjoy £5 off all foundations.

See the on-counter offers at Debenhams in Chatham and Gravesend for more information.

Get yourself fit and healthy the RAF way

MAKE a change for the better this year with the RAF Fit For Life exercise guide.

If your New Year fitness regime has already faltered, try a sensible and long-term solution by following the simple tips that RAF personnel use to get in shape and stay fit.

The guide can be downloaded at www.raf.mod.uk/careers, where a short video with two of the RAF's physical-training instructors and more fitness information can also be found.

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The Evolution II is available in silver for **£24.99**, and makes a perfect companion for your vacuum cleaner.

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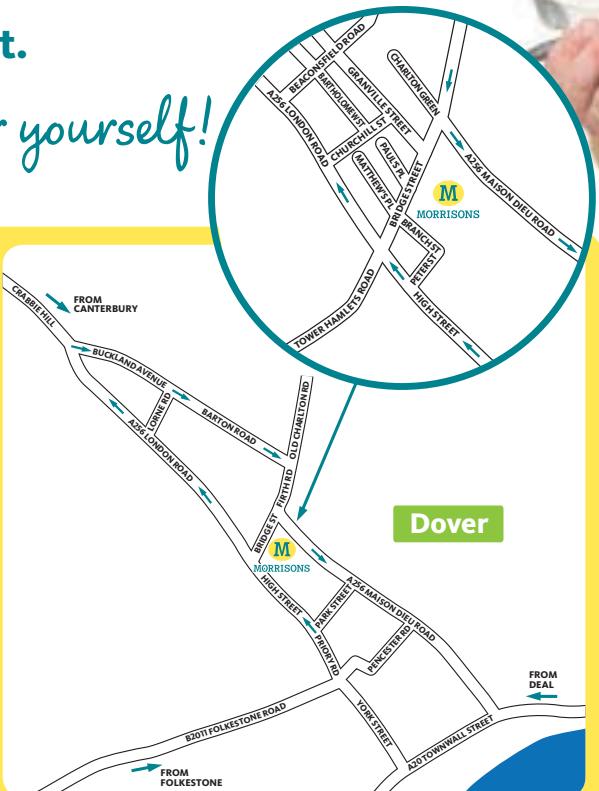
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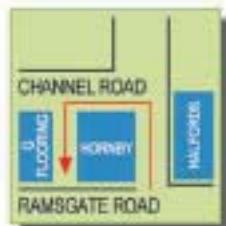
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VAT-registered businesses in Kent are being urged to get ready for major changes to VAT return filing and payment coming in April.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has sent a leaflet to all 1.9 million VAT-registered businesses to alert them to the fact that, from April 1, 2010, those with an annual turnover of £100,000 or more, excluding VAT, will have to file their VAT returns online and pay their VAT electronically.

Under the changes, businesses registering for VAT on or after April 1 will also have to file their return online and pay electronically, whatever their turnover.

Every year, around 5,200 businesses register for VAT in Kent.

The average number of businesses registering for VAT each year by area is:

- Medway 619
- Ashford 481
- Canterbury 397
- Dartford 299
- Dover 247
- Gravesham 258
- Maidstone 545
- Sevenoaks 508
- Shepway 286
- Swale 377
- Thanet 313
- Tonbridge and Malling 401
- Tunbridge Wells 454

HMRC told all VAT-registered businesses in the county to take notice of the changes, as well as local firms who are planning to register for VAT in the coming months.

To file a VAT return online, businesses new to HMRC's online services need to register for the VAT Online service by visiting www.online.hmrc.gov.uk, clicking 'register' under the 'new user' section and then following the instructions.

Current HMRC online service users can add VAT Online to their portfolio in the 'Services you can add' section of 'Your HMRC services'.

HMRC's Stephen Banyard said: "Filing your

VAT return dread? Click on to a new system

VAT return online has a number of benefits: it's secure, convenient, does arithmetical checks and calculations for you, and provides you with an immediate online acknowledgement that your online return has been safely received by us.

"So, if your turnover is £100,000 or more, and you're not already filing your VAT return online, sign-up now for VAT online services – that way, you'll avoid a last-minute rush, and be able to enjoy the benefits of online filing sooner rather than later."

HMRC will also be sending formal letters in February to all existing businesses affected by the new online filing and electronic payment requirements, confirming that in future they must file online.

and pay electronically.

And, from
April

1, a letter explaining the requirement to file online will be included in all registration packs issued to newly registering VAT businesses. Both letters will be accompanied by a guide on registering for VAT Online.

Further help and advice, including an online demonstrator and a step-by-step guide to filing online, is available on HMRC's website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat, or by calling its VAT helpline on 0845 010 9000 between 8am and 8pm, Monday to

GO ONLINE: A new simpler system to file your tax return has been set up by HMRC online



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- FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering £39.99 for MOTs
- KOS Media is offering a saving of £20 on a versatile Powertec Folding Wheeled Chair
- Northgate Alfa Motors in Canterbury is offering air conditioning servicing for £79.95 + VAT
- Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone is offering MOTs from £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99
- KOS Media is offering an Inovalley USB Turntable for only £99.99
- Baileys Nissan Motors in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a room on a Friday evening before March 31, 2010, for £39 if you book now
- Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Motors in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off a used vehicle when you present this voucher
- KOS Media is offering a football history book for £49.99
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Mergers and acquisitions:

ISSUES FOR BUYERS

BUYING a business involves many risks. If a buyer is not careful, he may end up paying more than just the agreed purchase price. However, with careful planning and proper advice, these risks can be reduced.

The most important factor is to know what you are buying. This may seem an obvious point, but if you are buying shares in a company, you are buying all assets and liabilities of that company, whether known or unknown, actual or contingent.

Due diligence is vital, therefore. This will involve scrutinising the target's financial and tax records, cash-flows and budgets, business and employment contracts, properties and other assets.

The price will probably be agreed with the seller before due diligence takes place, but a buyer must not be afraid to renegotiate if due diligence throws up issues or liabilities which were not expected.

The price payable for the business can be structured in many ways. It is rare nowadays for a buyer and seller to agree a fixed price, all of which is payable on the date of the acquisition. The price can be payable in instalments and occasionally the value of the instalments are calculated by reference to the profits or turnover of the business during the intervening period (known as an earn-out). It is also quite common for the price to be adjusted by reference to accounts of the business which are prepared as at the date of the acquisition, so the buyer is paying for the assets and liabilities on the balance sheet at that date.

If the target business is a company, the buyer may choose to buy the shares or the assets from the company. Buying shares is generally more risky for a buyer. It means buying the company 'lock, stock and barrel' and inheriting any skeletons in the company's cupboard. It is actu-

ally a much simpler structure and likely to be favoured by sellers. Buying assets may be more tax-efficient for the buyer and it allows the buyer to cherry-pick the specific assets it wants, but it will involve the complexities of transferring individual assets and having to renew or assign contracts with customers and suppliers.

The principle method for a buyer to protect itself against unknown liabilities post-acquisition is to obtain warranties from the seller.

Warranties are statements of fact relating to the business which are relied on by the buyer as being true. If a warranty subsequently turns out to be untrue, the buyer will be able to claim damages for breach of warranty. The warranties often take up a significant proportion of the purchase contract and a lot of time is often spent negotiating their terms and application.

Compensation

The warranties serve two purposes: Firstly, they force the seller to disclose any information it knows about a warranty which is untrue, so the buyer has a full picture of what it is buying. Secondly, the warranties serve as a price adjustment mechanism by enabling the buyer to claim compensation for damages, losses or liabilities arising from a warranty being untrue, effectively reducing the price of the business.

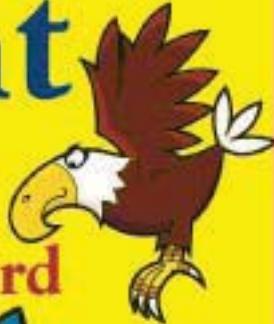
Employees are often key to a business, but sometimes a buyer will not want or need all of the seller's employees. However, a buyer will inherit responsibility for all of the seller's employees, so careful consideration is necessary before any redundancy decisions are made, either by the buyer or the seller.

The acquisition of a business should be a stepping stone for greater success and profits for a buyer. Buyers must ensure that the terms of the acquisition fully protect them against it being an expensive mistake.



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what you will need to know...



DONE DEAL: Make sure you are aware of the risks of buying and selling a business before a deal goes ahead

ISSUES FOR SELLERS

A BUSINESS owner is likely to have shed blood, sweat and tears in making their business as successful as possible. Unless it is a family business and the next generation is ready to pick up the reins, these efforts will hopefully culminate in selling the business or, for the more ambitious, floating it on a stock exchange.

In light of this almost inevitable endgame, it is surprising how few business owners are prepared for the issues and procedures which will be relevant when the time for exit arrives. Being underprepared may result in receiving less than full value for the business.

Business owners must plan for their exit well in advance. Some of the most important things to ensure are also the most obvious, but that does not always mean they are observed.

The business structure must be established in a way which makes the sale as straightforward as possible. For example, if the business is operated through a company, are there any divisions, properties or assets which need to be extracted from the company before a sale?

All corporate and commercial documents relating to the business must be complete and up to date. They will be scrutinised during a buyer's due diligence, so do not give the buyer any excuse to delay or renegotiate the terms of the sale.

Key employees of the business should be signed up to employment contracts which comply with current employment legislation and contain enforceable restrictive covenants. The employees may be a valuable ingredient in the business, so a buyer will want to be satisfied that they are tied, as well as they can be, to the business.

If the business relies on unique intellectual property rights, it is imperative to ensure that these rights are protected as much as possible, whether by way of patent, trade mark, registered design rights, copyright or even simple confidentiality provisions.

Careful tax planning will also be key. The sale of shares in a company will almost certainly result in a lower tax bill for shareholders compared to the company selling its business and assets. This is because the company will have to pay corporation tax on its gains before the balance of proceeds can be distributed to its shareholders. However, there are exceptions to this rule, so always review the position early with a tax advisor.

When approaching potential buyers, it is important that sellers do not disclose too much information without first procuring signed confidentiality undertakings from the recipients of any information, to protect the business' trade secrets, customer and employee lists, pricing policies and other sensitive information.

Debenture

If a buyer makes an offer which includes an element of the purchase price being payable after the date of sale (possibly on an earn-out basis), the seller should consider what protection they require.

For example, should the buyer provide some form of security over the deferred element, such as a bank guarantee or debenture? If the deferred amount is dependant on future turnover or profits of the business, should there be provisions requiring the business to be conducted in the same manner as it was conducted before the sale? Careful consideration should also be given to the tax implications of any deferred element of the purchase price because, without careful planning, it is possible that tax will be payable on the full value of the purchase price, even if only some of it is paid on the date of sale.

There are many additional issues which need to be considered by sellers before they embark on the exit process, but hopefully this article highlights a handful of the most significant factors.

• *Nicholas Gabay, Partner Corporate & Commercial Department, Thomson Snell & Passmore.*

CROSSKEYS COACHES DAY TRIPS AND TOURS



January

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Saturday 23rd	Brighton Ice Show	£34.00

February

Monday 1st	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Thursday 4th	Ikea & Lakeside	£16.50
Saturday 6th	De Panne	£19.50
Monday 15th	Dickens World	£16.00
Thursday 18th	Boulogne & Nausicaa	£25.00
Saturday 20th	Disneyland, Paris	£67.50

March

Monday 1st	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Sunday 7th	London Eye & Thames Cruise	£37.50
Tuesday 9th	Westfield Shopping Centre	£17.00
Saturday 13th	De Panne	£19.50
Friday 19th	The Stitch & Craft Show 2010 at Olympia	£22.00
Sunday 21st	Yesterdays World & Battle Abbey	£16.50
Wednesday 24th	Ideal Home Exhibition	£28.00
Thursday 25th	Boulogne	£24.00
Saturday 27th	Bruges	£32.00
Wednesday 31st	Kensington Palace	£25.00

April

Sunday 4th	Dickens World	£16.00
Sunday 4th	Chatham Dockyard	£16.00
Tuesday 6th	Montreuil	£26.00
Friday 9th	Tower of London	£29.00
Saturday 10th	Disneyland, Paris	£67.50
Monday 12th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Thursday 15th	Druisillas Park	£26.00
Saturday 17th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Tuesday 20th	Montreuil	£26.00
Thursday 22nd	Boulogne	£24.00
Sunday 25th	London Eye, Carvery & Cruise	£59.00
Wednesday 28th	St Omer	£28.00

May

Saturday 1st	Finchcocks	£28.50
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Sunday 9th	Monets Gardens	£42.00
Monday 10th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Wednesday 12th	Leeds Castle	£20.50
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Tuesday 18th	Denbies Classic Winery & Vintage Train Tour with Cream Tea	£38.00
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■ Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering MOTs for only £45

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■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

AS A new year begins, the search for shares and managed funds with 'hot' prospects will continue for small investors seeking to supplement their income.

In the Noughties, the game lost much of its sparkle. It's been a grim time for shares, especially those in banks once seen as solid and reliable, such as Lloyds TSB, Royal Bank of Scotland and HBOS. In 30 months of financial mayhem, income and capital gains from shares have plunged.

Well-regarded blue chips sank too, although many bounced back in the 54 per cent surge by London's FTSE 100 index since March.

The turmoil may not yet be over. Savers nearing retirement may be reluctant to touch equities at all, in case they sink to the lows that London prices hit in early 2009.

Despite the doom and gloom, however, small investors still hold £162 billion of shares, says Capita Registrars.

And with minimal returns from rival investments such as property and savings accounts, people trying to build a lump sum to allow earlier retirement will want some money in shares – or funds that hold mostly stocks.

Caution is the watchword with most pundits. Nobody knows how share prices will respond when the Government's policy of quantitative easing is eventually switched off.

Jonathan Jackson, head of equities at broker Killik & Co, has some FTSE 100 giants in his Top Ten for 2010, including GlaxoSmithKline, BG Group, Barclays, hedge-fund manager

Man Group and FT owner Pearson. Most of these pay good dividends, around five per cent, even if capital growth may be limited.

Killik's high-yielding portfolio, with firms from the FTSE 100, Mid 250 and Small Cap, pays an average dividend of 5.7 per cent, with limited downside risk short of financial armageddon. He predicts the FTSE 100 will be at 5,850 by the end of 2010, about eight per cent up on the current level of 5,400.

Richard Hunter at discount broker Hargreaves Lansdown is slightly more hopeful. He sees the Bank of England base rate at 1.5 per cent by December, and the FTSE 100 around 6,000 in 12 months' time.

He plumps for BP (paying 5.5 per cent), Tesco, Home Retail (owner of Argos/Homebase) and one of the pharmaceutical giants, either GlaxoSmithKline or AstraZeneca.

Among tiddlers, he likes Davis Service Group, a £700 million company trading as Sunlight in the UK and Ireland to provide uniforms and workwear to a range of companies.

Globally, Hunter thinks 2010 could be the year when the economic might of China is widely recognised.

Tim Steer at the Artemis UK Growth Fund is backing firms focused on change – among them oil minnow Sterling Energy, listed on

London's junior AIM market. He also likes Ricardo, focused on improving fuel efficiency for the automotive sector.

Peter Saacke, fund manager at Artemis Global Growth, thinks 2010 will deliver higher income from shares as dividends recover. His core holdings include Cobham, Northumbrian Water and Imperial Tobacco.

In an atmosphere of huge uncertainty, there are attractions in making monthly payments into managed funds: if share prices, investors buy more shares with the same subscription.

Choosing a specialist fund is also an easy way into global markets where most investors know little about specific shares.

Emerging markets boomed in 2009, notably the BRIC chain of Brazil, Russia, India and China. Neptune's Russia & Greater Russia, launched five years ago and heavily invested in oil, mining and gas companies, was a top-performing fund in 2009, soaring by 107 per cent. Alliance RCM BRIC Stars had another great year with an 80 per cent surge.

Can they keep it up? As the developing world continues to grow, demand for raw materials grows too – which might be a case for backing JP Morgan Natural Resources, up by more than 600 per cent in the past decade.

Virgin Money's Investor Intentions Index says emerging markets pushed UK shares to second place in advice given by financial advisors during 2009, but some doubt this surge can be maintained. In any case, investors bruised by 2007-09 might choose safe funds for 2010, rather than those set to soar.

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Twelve ways

BY JEREMY GATES

MANY families who cut back on spending in 2009 on the assumption of recovery in 2010 may already be having a rethink, and are looking for fresh ways to prune the budget after warnings another 250,000 jobs could go in the new year.

Unemployment could hit three million by mid-summer, says the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) – partly because of rising inflation and the rise in VAT. Counting the pennies this year could be more important than last.

"People should review their finances on a regular basis and the turn of the year is a great trigger to do just that," said Clare Francis at moneysupermarket.com.

"For those suffering an extra financial hangover from the festive period, recovery will be quicker in 2010 if significant savings are made."

Ms Francis estimates an average household could save £4,000 a year, simply by getting the cheapest deals in those areas of spending few of us can avoid, like mortgage repayments and energy bills.

Here are a dozen spending checks which any household can make.

1. Mortgages – use low interest rates to overpay your mortgage, while 'interest only' borrowers who switch to capital repayment terms with their current lender may be surprised by savings in the long-term.

Moneysupermarket.com estimates that somebody paying an extra £50 per month on a capital repayment could save £40,000 over the 300-month life of a mortgage.

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk points out that switching lenders might not be worth it for those with small loans, because of the hefty fees incurred. Above £70,000, though, it might be worth looking at cheaper fixes, including a Leeds BS five-year fix at 4.75 per cent or Mansfield BS's two-year fix at 3.59 per cent.

Don't linger on a Standard Variable Rate (SVR) loan because rates are likely to rise this year. Someone with a £150,000, two-year mortgage at Coventry BS fixed at 3.5 per cent would save £2,278 against the average SVR rate.

2. Get the cheapest loan – Nationwide BS thinks many consumers with debts spread across credit and store cards, overdrafts and loans could save by consolidating the debts into its new personal loans costing a typical 7.6 per cent APR on £7,500-14,999 for up to five years, the rate being fixed for the full term of the loan.

This undercuts the 7.9 per cent offer on £7,500-15,000 advances, with Nectar points, unveiled by Sainsbury's Finance.

3. Credit cards – if you can get your card debts accepted for a zero per cent balance transfer deal, there's a case for cutting the card up to ensure you don't make new purchases, possibly charged at 16 per cent.

4. Be a careful shopper – write down what you need before entering the supermarket, and you can easily save £20 per week, says Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk. That's worth £1,000 a year, which you can use to pay off debts elsewhere.

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to trim your budget

5. Home and motor insurance – comparison site Gocompare.com reckons 21 million drivers are missing out on cheaper cover. Also, only 19 per cent of consumers switched their home insurer in the last year.

Gocompare.com says its customers could save an average £211 by comparing policies from more than 120 insurers and brokers.

A new deal from Direct Line offers 52 days of free cover on car insurance, while home insurance policies offer 12 months' cover for the price of nine, with a free home-emergency policy to cover call-outs, parts and labour on some domestic crises.

6. Claim all available benefits – if family income is less than £40,000 and both partners work 16 hours a week plus, you're eligible for childcare tax credits worth hundreds of pounds, assuming the care is registered with Ofsted.

7. Current Account – A&L, part of Santander Group, re-introduces its £100 cashback for those switching to its Premier Current Account from January 11. Other perks include a fee-free agreed overdraft for 12 months, free European travel insurance and 0.5 per cent credit interest, on condition at least £500 is paid in each month.

8. Maximise savings rates – the big institutions still need your cash, with Abbey and A&L kick-starting the new year with a range of fixed-rate bonds paying up to 4.1 per cent gross/AER on minimum £1 deposits invested for one year upwards.

9. Start saving for next Christmas – Yorkshire BS is launching a 2010 Christmas saver account, branch-based and

postal, paying a fixed rate of 3.5 per cent gross on a minimum £10 deposit. The account will take a maximum £1,200.

Savers prepared to set aside £250 per month, can get five per cent from the Norwich & Peterboro' BS Family Regular Saver.

10. Energy bills – obvious ways to save, said Will Marples at uSwitch.com, include paying by direct debit, switching to dual fuel, and signing up to



an online plan which are about £300 a year cheaper than standard energy plans.

11. TV, telephone and internet – Moneysupermarket.com reckons bundling your TV, landline and broadband connections can save about £130 a year, compared with the cost of standalone products.

For a standalone line rental deal, www.Homephonechoices.co.uk's Primus Home Phone Saver package offers free evening and weekend calls to UK landlines for £9.15 line rental per month.

12. Travel – If you know when you want to go, train travel needn't cost the earth. Advance tickets are available up to 12 weeks in advance, and are claimed to be the cheapest ticket option.

While bus passes are free for pensioners, railcards can lop a third from off-peak rail fares. Sign up for alerts from www.thetrainline.com to save an average 43 per cent on the price of 'turn up and go' tickets.

Many travel firms could go bust in 2010, putting your money at risk. The British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) recommends policies by Tokio Marine Europe, but Direct Line and AA Travel Insurance claim to offer protection against corporate failures.

• *Unbiased.co.uk, which promotes the benefits of independent financial advice, has a new financial calendar to help consumers plan their payments and spending. It can be downloaded free at www.unbiased.co.uk/financial-tools/financial-calendar.*

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■ Northgate Alfa Motors in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus, eg silver care, £139

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free glass of wine with your Sunday lunch throughout Jan and Feb in the Verve Grill

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FAMILY MATTERS:
Parents must think carefully about how to provide for their children



By **JEREMY PASSMORE**
Thomson Snell & Passmore

MANY people want to provide funds for their children and grandchildren, to help with all the varied calls for money they will experience during their younger years and into adulthood.

It is not always easy to know how best to structure any such provision. One wants to ensure that children have an appropriate degree of access to the monies, and that the structure serves to minimise the impact of taxes.

1. Bare Trusts – are arrangements where trustees are acting really only as nominees, with the beneficiaries having beneficial ownership of the monies.

Where funds are provided by grandparents, grandchildren can use their personal allowances for income tax and annual exemptions for CGT, which is likely to be better than if the monies were held by the parents or

Do you trust the children?

grandparents. If the funds are provided by parents, however, income tax is assessed on them until the children reach 18.

A disadvantage is at 18 the children can call for the money which belongs to them; because it might be spent unwisely does perhaps mean such trusts should not be over funded, to leave an 18 year old with too much to spend. While they are under 18, the monies can be used freely for their benefit, including paying school fees.

2. Discretionary Trusts – are used when the amount is more than would be appropriate for the children to take at 18; or where it is intended that the funds should be held to give benefit to the beneficiaries until a greater age such as 25; or where one wants to have the ability to favour some beneficiaries over others. Such trusts are very flexible and can target the benefit at the appropriate time.

A disadvantage is the trustees will need to

manage the funds and produce a separate tax return; with a bare trust the income is simply treated as belonging to the child and only a tax repayment claim will be needed. Furthermore, income tax rates for trustees are now high, with a 50 per cent rate from April.

The effect of this is mitigated if the income is paid out to beneficiaries who are non or lower rate tax payers. Accordingly it would normally be best to fund the trust at the sort of level where income being generated can safely be paid out, to avoid the trustees retaining income and suffering tax at 50 per cent.

Once again there is a difference if the funds are provided by a parent, with the tax assessed on the parent if the income is distributed; but if the income is accumulated, then it will be taxed at 50 per cent! So if parents want to get funds out of their estates, perhaps for IHT reasons, it would be wise not to invest to

produce a high level of income while the children are under age, although once they reach 18 the rules change and income paid out to the children is taxed on them and not their parent.

3. Provision by will – grandparents can bypass their children and set up trusts for grandchildren in their wills. The parents will probably benefit indirectly from the funds available and the trust can be drafted so the children's own personal tax position can be taken advantage of.

This will not happen if the fund is below the nil rate band threshold, currently £325,000. If someone wants to set up a larger fund, then there are ways to avoid any IHT charge by giving the children a right to income.

The circumstances and requirements of families differ greatly; one needs to think carefully about what one is trying to achieve and to structure gifts to achieve that in the most appropriate and tax effective way.

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Open a new car savings account

BY STEVE LOADER

THERE may be a glimmer of light at the end of the recessionary tunnel, but is it too soon to think about a new car?

No. In fact, there was a strong argument for some of us to buy new wheels even in the worst depths of the downturn and those circumstances continue to prevail.

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge on a new car thanks to big discounts at the moment.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant scheme, but dealers have been knocking cash off cars for months – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade in or not.

There are other deals that can be factored in too, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts on any add-ons you fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying an unpopular engine or trim combination or, worse, a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago.

After all, you don't want to trade your old gas guzzler for another just as thirsty or likely to depreciate badly.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars always

devalue unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for ditching something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, review your proposed part-exchange; a knee-jerk disposal and the cost of replacement, could be daunting even when judged against its high running costs for the next three years and eventual disposal when the market is more settled.

Budget

Road tax favours downsizing – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from April 1 next year – but this is still a small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis currently sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version.

The eco supermini might save £105 road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more and you might not think the driving experience worth paying extra for either.

Be aware too that from April 1, all cars emitting 130g/km or less will be zero-rated for tax in their first year on the road.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; the fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on their heavier diesel equivalents.



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Motability

Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Robins and Day Motors in Rochester is offering MOT from £29.99. Service and MOT from £119.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

CLASS: Alfa Romeo's dramatic MiTo supermini proves eco motoring need not be boring motoring



BY STEVE LOADER

DON'T swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling eased the pressure a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars... just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government won't be any different due to existing agreements to clean up pollution – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

At present, you can escape paying anything if your car emits 100g/km or less and, from April 1, this benefit will apply to any car with a 130g/km or less rating, within one year of being registered. After that it will revert to £20-30 a year.

By the same token, anyone buying a serious CO2 emitter discharging 255g/km or more will



TAX EXEMPT: Vauxhall has announced an improved Vauxhall Corsa, badged with its ultra-green ecoFLEX sub-branding, that is tax exempt thanks to just 98g/km emissions

Pros and cons of road tax savings

be clobbered by a £950 charge in the first year and £435 thereafter when the new scale comes into effect – the current tax for cars in this band is £405.

Curiously, due to inconsistent emissions data on older cars, these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles. The higher charge increases to £205 after April 1.

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Smarter driving for better saving

BY STEVE LOADER

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear – a moped or motorcycle might be a better option.

If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes, or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least 10 per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal. Feather the throttle at cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes

at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG

(liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.



ECO-FRIENDLY: Driving more economically can also add to the savings you make from purchasing eco-friendly models like the Skoda Octavia Estate Greenline (above) or Nissan's 'Swiss army knife' Qashqai (right) – the car that can be family a hatchback, people carrier, SUV and even 4x4 if you buy a flagship model

Dark Horses.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Corsa 3-door SRi 1.4i 16v (100PS) manual: Urban – 40.4 (7.0), Extra-urban – 61.4 (4.6), Combined – 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 129g/km. Astra Sport Hatch Sport 1.4i 16v manual: Urban – 35.3 (8.0), Extra-urban – 56.5 (5.0), Combined – 46.3 (6.1). CO₂ emissions 146g/km.

Price shown includes £2000 Vauxhall Scrappage Allowance which is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Vauxhall Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to cars registered on or before 29.02.02 (vans on or before 28.02.02) when traded in against a new car subject to conditions and whilst Government funding applies. Models illustrated are Corsa 3-dr SRi 1.4i 16v (100PS) at £14,484 Man. Rec. OTR (offer price £9995 OTR) and Astra Sport Hatch Sport 1.4i 16v at £16,339 Man. Rec. OTR (offer price £11695* OTR). On-the-road (OTR) prices include number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, DVLA new vehicle first registration fee of £55 and VAT at 17.5%. Excludes fuel and insurance. Offers available to private individuals, and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 01.01.10 and 28.02.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. Offers are available on selected Retailer stocks only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, unless stated otherwise, and are available at participating Retailers only. Excludes Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

BY STEVE LOADER

FUEL prices continue to be volatile – no help to drivers as Britain tries to claw its way out of recession.

The UK's biggest supplier of company cars reckons this also comes on top of motorists being suckered by costly motoring myths.

Lex Autolease associate director Chris Chandler said: "We own over 300,000 vehicles and some of the feedback we receive from drivers shows that a lot of bad habits have crept in, due to myths passed down from one colleague to another or through friends and family."

The firm's 'Myths Hit List' is:

'Premium fuel is good for your car every now and again'

It is only suitable for high performance cars needing superior fuel for efficient running – the higher cost is repaid by better mpg. Drivers using non-performance cars should stick to ordinary unleaded and diesel.

Another myth suggests supermarket fuel is poorer quality than that from oil companies' forecourts, but they often come from the same source, so you're paying more for the brand and any additives included.

It's best to fit your new tyres to the front axle'

Actually, they should be fitted to the rear. More grip on the rear axle improves stability on slippery roads and could prevent a spin.

Drivers are also more used to worn tyres on the front, because most modern cars are front wheel drive and wear front treads faster than the rears; switching part-worn rears to the front maintains a balance that the driver is used to.

'Allow the car to warm up before driving off'

The engine will warm up faster, use less fuel and pump out less CO₂ if you drive off immediately, rather than leave it to idle for a while. In winter, this also helps the car heater warm faster, though windscreens must be fully defrosted before setting off.

'Running the fuel tank near to empty helps to clean it'

Motoring myths shattered – more savings pocketed



ON A ROLL: If you are buying two new tyres, they should be fitted to the back wheels say experts, as most modern cars are front-wheel drive, like the latest Vauxhall Astra and Mazda3 pictured here – new additions to the family hatchback sector.

Fuel tanks do not 'self-clean'. It is more likely that you will misjudge your next fill-up and risk seizing up your engine or other components; driving with little or no fuel can be almost as damaging to a vehicle as putting in the wrong fuel. Fill up as quickly as possible when your warning light appears.

'Filling up slows down your car'

Partially true. A heavy fuel load impacts upon fuel efficiency and braking distances, but acceleration and top speed is barely compromised by a full tank.

No claims protection insurance protects my premium if I have a crash'

Standard insurances only protect the discount you would have received at the end of a claim-free year. If you have a claim, insurance companies can increase your overall premium, despite having a no claims protection policy, because you are an increased insurance risk.

Admittedly, the company has a vested interest in the final point:

'Leasing is more expensive than buying'

Many businesses and motorists fail to properly calculate the true cost of ownership. List price alone is a red herring, and ignores true running costs: finance, depreciation, maintenance and insurance.

All such costs can be better captured and budgeted through a lease deal.

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Last call for Scrappage?

BY STEVE LOADER

AFTER a stuttering start the Government's £2,000 Scrappage incentive accelerated into a big success last year.

So much so that the initial £300 million fund needed a 50 per cent top-up last autumn to avoid running out before the proposed end of the scheme in March this year.

But money is dwindling again, and it is difficult to read how the Government will react to another top-up or an extension.

It could be simply delaying a decision so that it can maximise the political mileage ahead of the spring general election, but it is also questionable whether the scheme does much for UK PLC or its balance of payments – foreign-based carmakers and their workforces have been the main beneficiaries.

So get your order in now before the cash



HIT: Scrappage made the frugal Hyundai i10 hatchback one of the UK's top sellers



NEW LOOK: Scrappage has tempted many people out of old cars and into sharp-suited affordable new ones like the Chevrolet Cruze

runs out if you fancy swapping your banger.

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

Carmakers like the scheme, though quietly annoyed that they would be expected to contribute half of each £2,000 Government Scrappage grant and that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

But they have seen that they can use Scrappage to buy market share and keep car plants running through the recession, and some brands have been chipping in extra cash on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as more specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.

This also indicates how keen dealers are to

do business, so don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars without a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more, and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now, and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motors in Canterbury is offering fixed price servicing for cars three-years plus, for example bronze care, £109

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free glass of wine or a pint with any main course in the Victory Pub

■ KOS Media is offering a saving of up to £40 on Slumberdown Memory Foam Mattress Toppers

■ FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering £250 worth of accessories with Network Q purchases

■ KOS Media is offering the Ewbank Evolution II for £24.99, save £5 on RRP

■ Ashford Orbital Motors in Ashford is offering a winter check for £19.95 inc VAT, with free de-icer, ice scraper and screen wash

■ KOS Media is offering a saving of £30 on the leader MD Electronic Typewriter – only £169.99

■ Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Motors in Tunbridge Wells is offering an MOT for only £35

■ Sink Ports kitchens and bathrooms store in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off kitchens

■ Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ KOS Media is offering a saving of up to £214 on a Denby Mist Dinner Set from only £99.99

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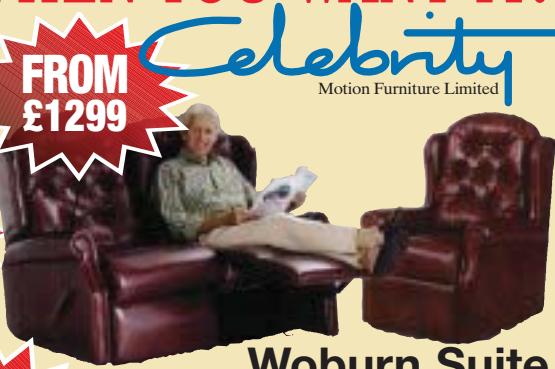


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yourmusic

Lovedays leading the way as Suburban Kings return

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE monthly Suburban Kings club night returns next weekend with a Lovedays-led line-up.

The polished quartet will be joined on the Tap 'n' Tin's bill by Medway five-piece The Deccas, the highly-talented Archie Wah Wahs and teenage upstarts The Facades.

Usual Suburban Kings rules apply: the night will be topped off with club DJs, doors open at 8pm, entry costs £6. Drinks promotions help plug the band changeover periods.

While details of February's SK night have not been revealed, over-excited/incredibly-organised-for-a-band The Ambience have started promoting their gig at the March SK night, pencilled in for Saturday, March 6.

Support comes from The Bela Lugosi Blues, formerly known as The Mind Without Maths.

More acts will be revealed nearer the time.

The March gig will see Suburban Kings turn four. Promoter Matt Harvey said he was delighted with how the night had grown.

"I never thought we'd be doing it for more than a year, never mind four," he said. "It has become a bit of an obsession for me. I really enjoy doing the artwork and finding the best local new bands – hopefully before all the other promoters in Kent!"

Matt said picking a highlight from the four years would be nigh-on impossible, but when pressed he said: "I guess the most notable act to have played is just making it big now, Ellie Goulding. She played for us more than two years ago and has just won a Brit award and been named one of the ones to watch for 2010



SUBURBAN: The Deccas and Lovedays (frontman Ben Jones pictured right) are at the Tap 'n' Tin next weekend

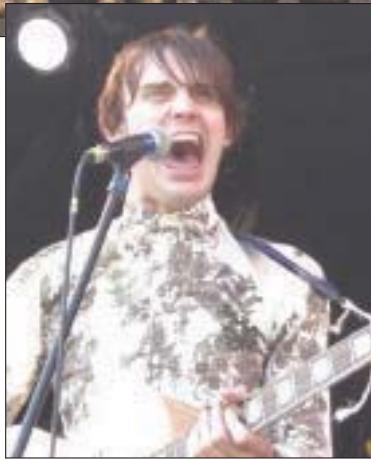
in pretty much every guide I've seen. It is discovering the new acts that I really enjoy. We had Underground Heroes really early on and the same with the likes of The Wombats, Smoke Fairies and Kid Harpoon."

Four years in, Suburban Kings show no signs of running out of steam.

"This year we're looking at putting on more of the same nights," said Matt. "I'm really excited about a new band called Facades and solo singer-songwriter Natalie Evans.

"It'll also be interesting to watch the continued rise of other top local bands, like Onlookers and The Bela Lugosi Blues."

For information, go to www.myspace.com/SuburbanKings.



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Canterbury-based singer-songwriter Lucy Kitt plays Laurel Canyon



Dover-based funk grunge-rock band Kingskin



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Gristlebridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 2 We Are Tides - Mice and Men (from Canterbury)
- 3 Gristlebridge - The Drunk Song (from Whitstable)
- 4 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 5 The Flack - Forget Me (from Deal)

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Villa Isis BB	£239	£239	£270	£277	£304	£311	£321	£321	£328	£338	£345	£355	£355	£345	£355	£334	£344
Mayfair / Metropole HFB	£393	£400	£417	£445	£465	£465	£489	£489	£489	£527	£527	£537	£537	£527	£537	£509	£519
Norfolk BB	£260	£260	£277	£284	£325	£325	£335	£335	£335	£345	£345	£362	£362	£359	£369	£362	£365
Runnymede Court	£323	£340	£340	£340	£360	£381	£391	£391	£391	£401	£429	£439	£439	£429	£439	£439	£435
Flight only	£99	£99	£109	£109	£129	£129	£139	£139	£139	£149	£149	£159	£159	£149	£159	£159	£169
No of seats available	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	48	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

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yourtimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY HAYLEY ANDREWS



GLEE
E4, 9pm, Monday

GLEE is an American-born musical television series that has US audiences captivated, gripped and addicted.

Now it has come to our screens courtesy of E4 and it seems it's our turn to be wowed.

A 'glee club' is a show choir that performs jazzed-up pop songs and show tunes, often accompanied by choreography.

Glee is set at the fictional William McKinley High School in Lima, Ohio, where Spanish teacher Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) takes the failing club, which is attended only by a handful of misfits and geeks.

Funny, abrasive and absolutely adorable, each episode is interspersed with relevant musical numbers.

The plots resemble those of soap operas, but Glee stands out from other shows of its genre because of its quirky sense of humour, which makes light of topics that other dramas might get in a flap about.

The characters are wonderfully awkward, likable and in turn ridiculous. Many are pretty clueless and even the bad-guy characters have some spark and life that makes you want to watch.

Jane Lynch plays the school's drill sergeant-style cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester, with quips like "I will go to the animal shelter and get you a kitty cat. I will let you fall in love with that kitty cat and then on some dark, cold night I will steal away into your home and punch you in the face" and "I will vomit down your back".

You can't help but laugh at her delightful nastiness.

Taking the show seriously is a mistake. Glee is not another High School Musical and is far from the



SCHOOL'S OUT: E4 have taken Globe Golden-nominated Glee and brought it to UK screens

disaster that was ITV's Britannia High; rather it is a parody of such shows.

When gloomy EastEnders and tired Corrie are bringing you down, this serves as a tonic. It's deliberately cheesy, purposefully cringeworthy and mocks high-school politics.

The show is a celebration of individuality and of the misfit, which in the age of perfect-people Gossip Girl is revitalising and delightful.

The fact the series was nominated for four 2010 Golden Globe Awards tells you more than I can.

Anything uplifting in today's grey society is more than welcome, if you ask me.

Fans of Glee are referred to as 'gleeks' and, as a self-confessed gleek, I would advise you to test the water.

Just don't overanalyse – take it for what it is and enjoy.

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

IT'S important to trust your instincts when it comes to a creative project. Although it might seem weird, it is compelling. Who cares if it hasn't been tried before? Your initial attempts will be disappointing, but keep going. You'll learn something new with each try.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU have a tendency to cut yourself off from the group when you become depressed. Joining a group project will restore your self-confidence. It's flattering to see people respond so well to your ideas. Besides, most people love the way you inject humour into the proceedings.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

THINK up some strategies to boost your career. Meeting with an executive can have exciting results. Going back to school, getting a license or attending a job fair will get the ball rolling. If you're going to progress, you need to take matters into your own hands.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

IT'S necessary to be a little secretive, particularly when it comes to finances. If you get an extra sum of money stay mum about it. Normally, you have no problem sharing your good fortune with others. This time you've been longing to indulge your sensual desires.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

GETTING specialised or technological knowledge will improve your employment prospects. As a general rule you prefer to focus on the big picture. This has gotten you to a certain level, but now you're ready to move to higher ground. This requires getting better qualifications.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

FINDING an outlet for your creative talent is critical to your happiness. You're always looking for ways to be helpful to others. Now it's time to serve your own needs. If that means relinquishing some of your household responsibilities or relaxing your standards, so be it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU will get fame and acclaim for your ideas. Normally, you prefer to sit in the shadows watching how things grow and develop, but now you're ready to take centre stage. Be ready to face-off with a stubborn man who thinks his methods are superior to everyone else's.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

IT'S time to sort out your finances, as dreary as that sounds. You've never been especially materialistic, which is admirable. Still, there are people relying on you for support. The simple act of getting your affairs in order can be of tremendous benefit to those closest to you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

TAKING a short trip will give your reputation an unexpected boost. Maybe you'll get a chance to show off your creative ability. It's even possible you'll go on a job interview and make a favourable impression on the company president. This is just the sort of ego boost you need.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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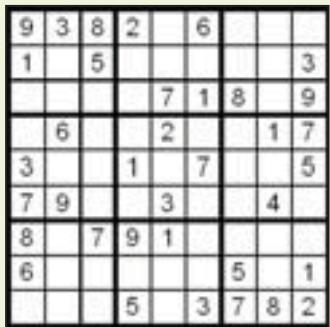
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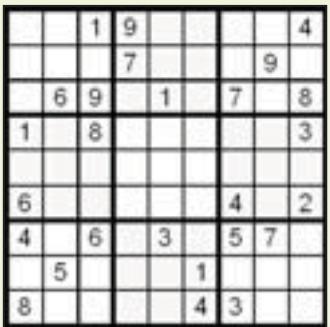
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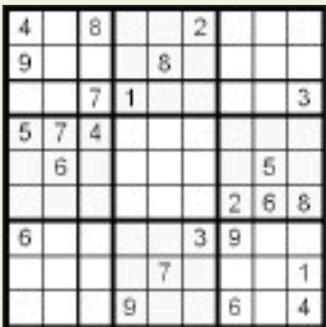
EASY



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CRYPTIC CLUES

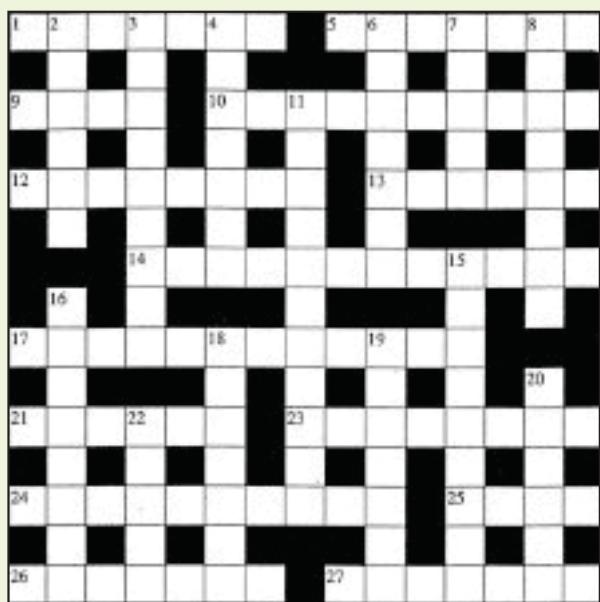
ACROSS

1 Fruity squelching? (7)
 5 Why is he moving about? Because it is watery (7)
 9 In Odessa kirsch, alcoholic drink (4)
 10 Nothing more than a religious rite in California (10)
 12 Serviceman's order, duck (8)
 13 Something that finishes everything found in Kendal latterly (3-3)
 14 Informs Grant about changing from one medium into another (12)
 17 Provider of power in a flash? (5,7)
 21 Coming round with reference to some pithy sayings (6)
 23 On which one must pay one's way (4,4)
 24 Leader's joint office (10)
 25 Extremely liberally included range of letters whilst averse to labour (4)
 26 Record that is about Thomas' short summary (7)
 27 State of the Empire? (3,4)

DOWN

2 In the capacity of bacon producer taking round clam (6)
 3 I am a toxic monstrosity - that's self-evident (9)
 4 No ahs with an unusual shout of praise (7)
 6 He will welcome call to attract attention or call to exertion at sea (5,2)
 7 Surrender profit (5)
 8 Paying for various lettings (8)
 11 Angry way with restless desire to do some needlework (5-6)
 15 Graduate confused royalty in chief magistrate's office (9)
 16 Enlisted, increased writing (6-2)
 18 Doubly beastly fabric? (7)
 19 Orbital path (7)
 20 German tank Peter puts nothing on dropping round (6)
 22 Test the heartless invader with choral composition (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 Marked increase (7)
 5 Loan (7)
 9 Tot (4)
 10 Valuing highly (10)
 12 Discovered (5,3)
 13 Attractiveness (6)
 14 With great vigour (4,8)
 17 Item of camouflage clothing (6,6)
 21 Horselaugh (6)
 23 Woody part that holds a nut (5-3)
 24 In one continuous period (2,1,7)
 25 Destroy completely (4)
 26 Late day (anag.) (3,4)
 27 Boasted (7)

DOWN

2 Amnesty (6)
 3 Active feminist movement (6,3)
 4 Mesh (7)
 6 Refuse orders (7)
 7 Entrance halls (5)
 8 Unremitting (8)
 11 Recklessly wasteful (11)
 15 Leaving without reporting motoring accident (3-3)
 16 Flirt (8)
 18 Stood on high (7)
 19 Technical expertise (7)
 20 Gag (6)
 22 Flintlock musket (5)

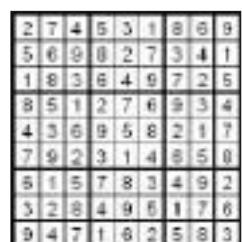
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No120

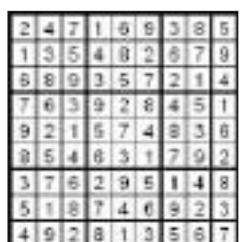
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

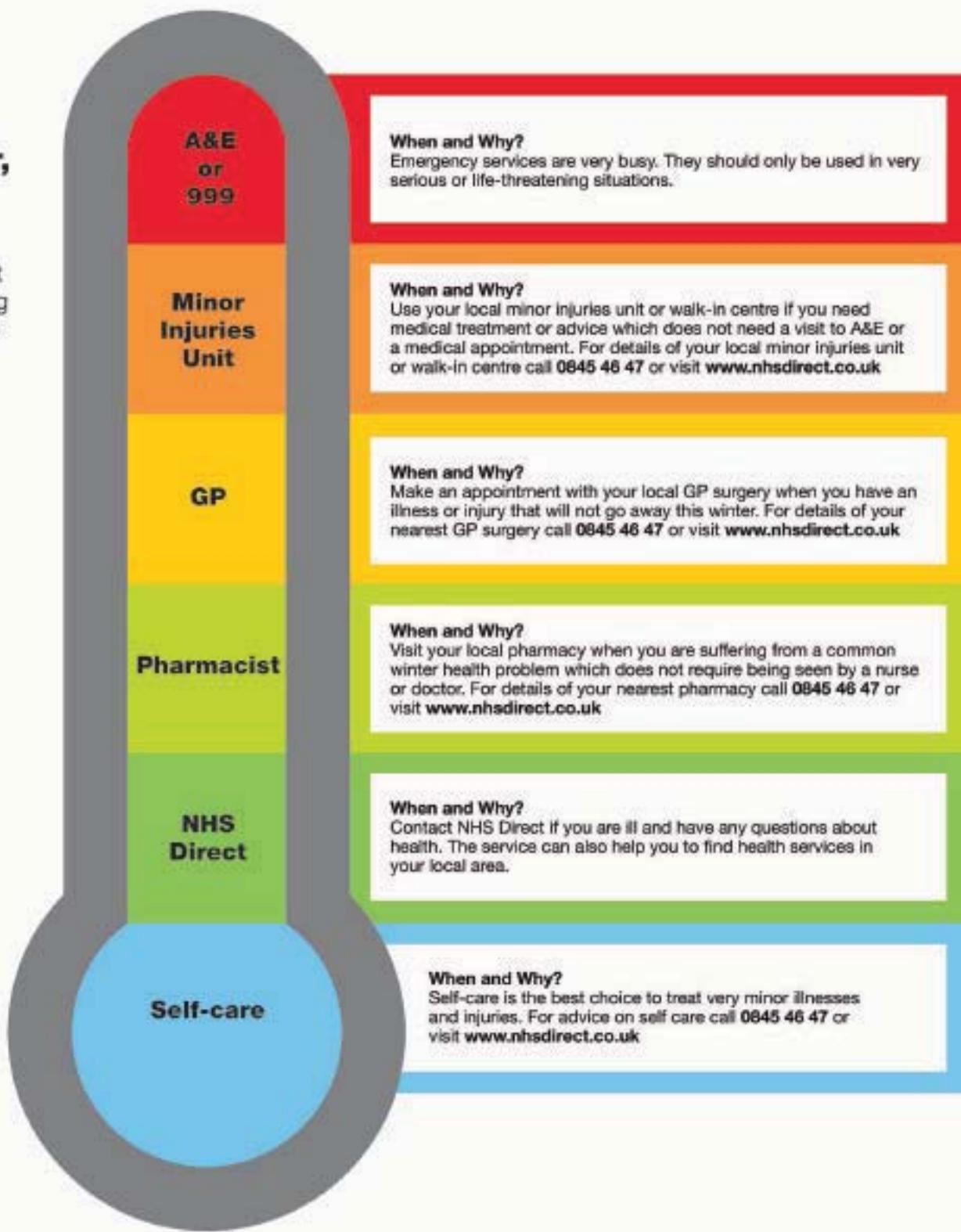
CRYPTIC SOLUTION No120

ACROSS: 1 Flight-deck 7 Body 9 Ebbw Vale 10 Squeal 11 Experiment 14 Redolent 15 Lyrist 16 Violet 18 Bulletin 20 Correspond 23 Stigma 24 Addiction 25 Brer 26 Everywhere. **DOWN:** 2 Lobe 3 Gown 4 Trapeze 5 Eyespot 6 Kestrel 7 Blue murder 8 Diagnostic 12 Helicopter 13 Jolly Roger 17 To scale 18 Brocade 19 Lady Day 21 Itch 22 Four.

QUICK SOLUTION No121

Muzze 22 Fusil
 10 Gouge 11 Extravagant 15 Hit-and-run 16 Constant 17 Extraordinary 18 Lowered 19 Jezz 20 Whoowow 21 22 Four.
Answers
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WOMEN seeking men

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461034

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-lover, blonde female, 25, 5'12", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed blonde, 27, 5'11", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, etc. Looking for a honest guy with GSCH, to get to know. Box 880105

LOOKIN' A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYES! Slim female, 5'8", medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male 23-32 for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442844

FANCY A Cuddle? Loving single mom, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'5", slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury, Box 454326

SOULD GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, yoga, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton, Box 463848

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly looks to enjoy the finer things in life, with leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'8", short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more? Box 677957

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, size 12, dark hair, with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells, Box 308734

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'13", shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and films, looking for a caring male for company. Sheerness, Box 491145

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mom, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453051

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoy swimming nights out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

GROWN OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37 yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring, I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 38, 5'14", medium/curvy build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440893

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 38, 5'14", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428662

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mom of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 867963



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Enter P2P as subject. MMS - network charges apply.

SHOW ME HEAVEN

Black lady, 36, old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441601

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lightly glossy blonde, 30yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys the arts, music and eating out. WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

TAKE A LITTLE TIME

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seafood, Box 444396

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU

Professional female, 41, 5'0", brown hair/eyes, likes country pubs and walks, looking for a gent, 42-55, to share a happy future with. Gillingham Box 462538

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming, seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

TLC ON OFFER

Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female enjoys life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, WLTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Bromley Box 459271

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happily-ever-after blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love cuttings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

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THE REAL THING Happy-go-lucky, fun-loving male, 42, 5ft, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out/in with a can of coke, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762

BE THERE NOW Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5'9", brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things. WLTM female to settle down with and find love. Box 443410

FALL FOR ME Single male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'8", easy going, loving, likes cooking, holidays, music, countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone, Box 480420

NOTHING VENTURED, **NOTHING GAINED** Young-looking 40yr old lady from Gillingham, looking for a male for company and good times. I love animals and dining out. Box 463495

MAKES A NEW FRIEND Fun-loving woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, cooking, I'm 49, 5ft2, medium build, WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Seafront, Box 445499

STIMULATING COMPANY

Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTM nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 398299

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green/blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne, Box 461397

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and caring male, 5ft9+. Box 461229

STAY TRUE Attractive, curly, single mum, 39, 5ft4, kind, genuine, 55+, loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea, Box 461320

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-brown hair, 5'4", age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 454564

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady, 51, looking for decent, genuine man, I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862688

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, going out, nice nights, good company. Box 434089

DO YOU DO IT? Caring, young-looking lady, 44, kind, genuine, 55+, loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea, Box 459128

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft tall, blonde hair, green eyes, enjoys being outdoors, horse riding, pubs, cinema and sharing a nice bottle of wine. WLTM you! Box 865096

ETERNALLY YOURS

Easygoing lady, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTM a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seafront, Box 445499

HELP ME OPEN UP

Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, likes restaurants, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

WANT

Fun-loving lady, 42, 5ft, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys being outdoors, horse riding, pubs, cinema and sharing a nice bottle of wine. WLTM you! Box 865096

WANT ME TO TALK

Smart, caring, single mum, 46, 5ft4, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, going out, nice nights, good company. Box 459262

DO YOU HAVE A SECRET?

Smart, caring, single mum, 46, 5ft4, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, going out, nice nights, good company. Box 459262

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys being outdoors, horse riding, likes clubs, cinema, eating, going out, nice nights, good company. Box 442717

PUT SPARK INTO LIFE

Caring single female, 64, 5ft2, likes meat out, cinema, walks, gardening and golf, looking for a kind and loving companion. Box 668026

LET'S GET IN LOVE

Loveable female, 65, 5ft6, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

WOMEN seeking women

Very nice, 50, looking for a similar female, 50+, honest and caring, 5ft, 5ft2, brown hair/blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, going out, nice nights, good company. Box 459271

TRUE ROMANCE

Fun loving lady, honest and caring, 41, 5ft, looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman, likes nights out etc. Whitstable, Box 454484

LET'S FIND OUT!

I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5ft5, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent, Box 459246

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman, I'm 42, 5ft8, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent, Box 459246

STARTING ANEW

Professional 42 year old, recently separated after a 23 year marriage. Likes the finer things in life, looking for someone who wants a relationship. Kent area, Box 668041

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL



Divorced guy, 6ft tall, attractive, 5ft, 50s old, likes nights in and out, boats, animals, meals out, WLTM lady in the Maidstone area. Box 459244

ADVENTUROUS, TACTILE & FRIENDLY



Male, 5ft8, 6ft, likes the coast, countryside, good food and wine, seeks fun female, 40-48, for friendship and love. Box 443410

HAND IN HAND



Easygoing man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 461243

IT'S A SHORE THING



Female, 58, 5ft1, GSCH, slim/medium build, likes animals, cooking, beach/country walks, driving, WLTM loving, caring woman to share good times together. Hastings, Box 459280

FEELS LIKE HOME



Self employed male, 54, tall, divorced, seeks female for friendship. Box 180307

LOVE ME, LOVE MY TROLLEY



Tall, dark, divorced male, 59, likes most music/dancing/cinema, seeking female for friendship, hopefully more... Collette, please call again. Email contact details! Box 444251

SINCERE



male, 55, 5ft5, seeks genuine, loving female for friendship and possible relationship. Box 710284

ON THE SHORELINE



Retired professional, 63, happy, content, GSCH, enjoys gardening, cooking, golf and sunbathing, seeking for a slim non-smoking lady to share nice times. Margate, Box 461121

PLAY YOUR HAND



Young 64 year old widow, 5ft7, still working, likes poker, pool, fishing, cinema and holidays! Seeks lady who needs loving TLC and soulmate. Sittingbourne, Box 464651

GAINING CONFIDENCE



47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life, seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463923

GET BACK TO ME



Good looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs, seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopefully good relationship. Hythe, Box 460355

BOTTLE OF WINE



Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, blonde hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

JUST ASK



Fun-loving male, 36, seeking male to share good times with, and maybe develop beyond. Maidstone, Box 863863

SHAKE IT UP



Active guy, 47, professional, likes the beach, countryside walks, photography, loves travelling, hoping to meet a mature warm hearted lady for life-long romance. Sittingbourne, Box 460916

GAINING CONFIDENCE



47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life, seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463923

GET TO ME



Good looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs, seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopefully good relationship. Hythe, Box 460355

GREAT SENSE OF FUN



Caring, sensitive male, 50, 5ft5, professional, looking for a fun, lively, indoor/outdoor, golf, tennis, swimming, socialising, exercise, fun times together. Margate, Box 461121

SHARE LIFE



Kind, caring male, 50, 5ft5, 100% love music, films, sport, looking to meet someone to enjoy life, hopefully a nice, genuine lady in the Chatham area. Box 454728

GET TOGETHER



Single male, slim build, 5ft10, tall, strong, seeking a slim lady for a fun relationship. Maidstone, Box 463644

SENSE OF HUMOUR A MUST



Very young looking male, 52, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft, looking for a nice young lady over 30 for romance and good times together. Box 860005

LOVE AND LAUGHTER



Male, 55, 6ft, good sense of humour looking for a soul mate and best friend as well as a lover. Must be single and honest. Box 863979

BEING WITH YOU



I'm an honest, easygoing, young-looking, fit male, 50, slim build, brown hair, eyes, 5ft, looking for a loving, honest, loving lady. Ashford, Box 484418

PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING



Understanding, caring, single male, 54, 5ft1, medium build, blonde hair, enjoys beach walks, cinema/theatre, bowling, darts, looking for lasting relationship. Canterbury, Box 462692

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



Active 52yr old man in fairly good shape, looking to meet a nice man for relaxation, conversation and good times. Canterbury, Box 452240

**PROPERTY NEWS****House prices up for sixth time, says bank**

IN its latest survey of the UK housing market, Halifax reports that in December, house prices increased for the sixth consecutive month.

The rise took the value of a typical home to £169,042, up 9.4 per cent – or £14,552 – on the low of April 2009, and 1.1 per cent higher on an annual basis.

Taking the three-month-on-three-month measure, prices rose for the second successive quarter; in the final three months of 2009, the average value of a home increased 3.5 per cent, marking the biggest quarterly jump since 2006.

The lender comments that significant interest rate cuts have “markedly reduced the burden of servicing a mortgage” and helped to stimulate demand, albeit from a low base.

However, Halifax expects house prices to remain flat in 2010 as prospects for depend on how the UK economy performs, and whether there is a significant increase in the supply of properties.

By way of comparison, Nationwide recently reported that the average house price rose by 0.4 per cent in December, compared to a month earlier, to £162,103. According to the building society, the increase took the annual rate of gain to 5.9 per cent.

No repayment fee for buy-to-let borrowers

LANDLORDS with cash to spare will be interested in Bradford & Bingley's offer to waive early repayment charges,

From February 1 buy-to-let borrowers can pay off a capital lump sum, or redeem their mortgages early, at no extra cost.

A similar waiver proved popular last year and its reintroduction forms part of a strategy to wind down the mortgage books of both lenders, as they will eventually be liquidated.

For landlords tempted to remortgage, lettings agent Leaders has this week reported “a small but significant increase in buy-to-let mortgage products”.

However, proposals for the Financial Services Authority to begin regulating the sector this year could stifle recovery in what has become a severely contracted market.

According to Paragon Mortgages, the number of buy-to-let products available has collapsed to about 190, with 94 per cent of loans disappearing since the onset of the credit crisis.



Best-buy mortgage table shows rise in competition

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Alliance & Leicester, which has branches across the county, has been named the most consistently competitive mortgage lender during the final quarter of 2009, according to research by mortgage search software firm, Evaluate Technologies.

A&L replaced HSBC as the UK's most consistently competitive mortgage lender during the quarter, despite having failed to register any of its home loans in best buy tables during the previous quarter.

Analysis

In the analysis, A&L achieved a score of 23 and beat off rivals including First Direct on 19 points, Woolwich on 15 and fourth with 14 points was HSBC.

However, Royal Bank of Scotland and subsidiary NatWest failed to put in a “best buy” appearance, as did Halifax and Cheltenham & Gloucester, said Evaluate.

Julie Speed, national accounts director at Evaluate Technologies said: “The changes taking place at the top of the best-buy tables indicate a good degree of competition in the mortgage market.

“This is going to be key to supporting the property market in 2010.

“Brokers will have been particularly pleased to see Alliance & Leicester's emergence, showing that lenders do value the intermediary market.”

**COMPETITION:** Alliance and Leicester sealed the deal for the most consistently competitive mortgage lender

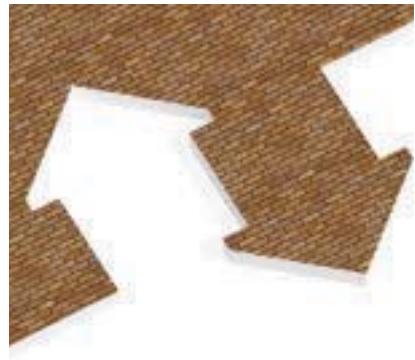
Meanwhile A&L, along with Abbey and Bradford & Bingley, is set to be re-named Santander later this year.

Santander, which is the second largest bank-group in the world after HSBC, became a

household name in the UK when it acquired Abbey for £9.5 billion, back in 2004.

In July 2008, it acquired A&L and a few months later, it took ownership of B&B's savings business and branch network.

Unemployment to hit house prices



HOUSING analysts Hometrack expects the housing market in England to feel the effects of rising unemployment in the months ahead.

The housing intelligence firm is predicting a one per cent fall in the average cost of a home in 2010, despite a rise of 0.1 per cent in December, which followed on from a 0.2 per cent increase in November.

However, December also saw the number of potential buyers entering the market fall by 2.2 per cent, the first decline since January 2009.

This month's increase eased the annual rate of decline to 1.9 per cent.

However, Hometrack's director of research, Richard Donnell, is convinced that rising unemployment and slow growth in household

incomes will take their toll next year. He concedes that a shortage of homes for sale will help to underpin prices, but expects demand to be the deciding factor in whether they rise or fall.

Meanwhile, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is taking a more optimistic view and predicting a one per cent to two per cent rise in UK house prices in 2010, despite a “flat” employment market and continued caution among lenders.

According to the RICS, supply should continue to increase in the early part of next year but will struggle to keep pace with demand.

The body also estimates that transactions will rise from between 55,000 and 60,000 per month in 2009, to 70,000 by the end of 2010.

YOU CAN DISCOVER HOW ONE ESTATE IN THE COUNTY IS BEING REGENERATED. SEARCH 'STANHOPE' @propertyforkent.co.uk



SEA FRONT LOCATION £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03013

- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms and private garden
- No chain



MARINE CRESCENT £184,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02339

- Two bedroom flat
- Two bathrooms
- Front and rear gardens, No chain



FOLKESTONE £220,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02270

- Large apartment in West End location
- Two bedrooms/Two reception rooms
- Study/Own private rear garden



DOVER £107,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03104

- Two bedroom terraced house
- Modern kitchen, new bathroom
- Lounge/Diner and garden



ELVINGTON £140,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02870

- Two bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- No chain



HAWKINGE £205,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02738

- Modern 3 bedroom detached
- 2 Receptions, cloakroom
- En suite & garage/driveway



FOLKESTONE £180,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02967

- 2 bed detached bungalow
- Garage and off road parking
- South facing rear garden



CHERITON £215,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03097

- 4 bedroom semi-detached
- Good sized rear garden
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02515

- 4 Bedroom family home
- 2 Receptions, modern kitchen
- Well presented, call to view



CHERITON £194,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03145

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking/garage
- Rear garden, GCH, DG



NORTH STREET £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02729

- 3 bedroom maisonette
- Allocated parking
- Own garden



CAPEL LE FERNE £184,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03121

- 3 bed end terrace
- Large rear garden
- Off road parking



TOWN CENTRE £89,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02909

- One bedroom apartment
- Newly built
- No chain



TOWN CENTRE £95,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02914

- One bedroom apartment
- Newly built
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £120,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03141

- Currently a 4 bedroom house
- Planning permission to extend
- Potential investment!



FOLKESTONE £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02054

- Three bedroom terrace
- Fully renovated
- No chain



WEST END £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02379

- 2 bed apartment
- Lots of features
- Shared garden and no chain



FOLKESTONE £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03039

- 4 Bedroom terraced
- Superb decorative order
- Large rooms



CHERITON £190,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02990

- Superb three bedroom house
- 2 bathrooms
- Garage and no chain



CHERITON £139,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03138

- 3 bed semi detached
- Needs modernisation
- Front and rear gardens

our sales are up

77%

SOLD S.T.C.

Source: net sales figures from
M&B Folkestone/Dover comparing
Mar - Aug '08 to Mar - Aug '09



SANDGATE £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03120

- 1 bedroom flat
- No chain
- GFCH



SANDGATE £94,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03119

- 1 bedroom flat
- No chain
- GFCH



HOMEPINE HOUSE £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03098

- 2 bedroom apartment
- private balcony
- retirement apartment



HYTHE £259,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03053

- 6 bedroom terraced
- GCH/garden
- Conservatory



FOLKESTONE £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03146

- 3 bed semi detached
- Off road parking
- Close to train station



FOLKESTONE £295,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03091

- 6 bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking
- Viewing advised



FOLKESTONE £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03090

- 4 bedroom terrace
- Close to seafront
- GCH & DG



THE BAYLE £107,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02894

- 2 bed retirement home
- No chain
- Good condition



CHERITON £89,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03001

- One bedroom apartment
- Recently refurbished
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £89,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02546

- One bedroom flat
- Fantastic views
- Excellent condition



SANDGATE £109,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02937

- One bed apartment
- Walking distance to beach
- Off road parking



THE LEAS £310,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02671

- Metropole Court, The Leas
- Four bedrooms, two receptions
- Spacious entrance hall



THE METROPOLE £364,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03114

- 4 bedroom third floor apartment
- Sea views and balcony
- Parking and store room available



METROPOLE £209,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03089

- 3 bedroom apartment
- Sea views and no chain
- Fully renovated



FOLKESTONE £157,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02930

- Three bedroom semi
- Conservatory
- Garage and driveway



WEST END £175,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03060

- 3 bed apartment
- Roof terrace
- Fully fitted bar



FOLKESTONE/CHERITON £250,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02958

- Industrial unit
- Off road parking
- Offices, shower room, kitchen



FOLKESTONE £139,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03131

- 3 bedroom terrace
- Private rear garden
- GCH/DG



FOLKESTONE £154,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02983

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Superb order throughout
- Vacant possession



WEST END £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03008

- 3 bedroom maisonette
- Going through re-furb
- No chain



DOVER £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03079

- 3 bedroom terraced house
- Lounge/diner
- Fitted kitchen



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New Romney 01797 363194
newromney@geeringandcolyer.com



Whitfield £224,950

four bedroom detached nearly new home. One en suite shower room and two receptions, lounge, well maintained rear garden through double glazed French doors.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Romney Marsh £210,000

This semi detached house enjoys sea views to the front and is offered for sale with no chain. Lounge and dining room, kitchen, utility and store room.

New Romney

01797 363194



Dover £74,950

one bedroom top floor flat, lounge with kitchen area and double glazing. Lease, Maintenance and Ground Rent to be advised by the vendors solicitor.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Folkestone £115,000

No forward chain. Situated in Folkestone's West End, this is a two bedroom lower ground floor flat with open plan accommodation comprising of lounge/kitchenette.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



Whitfield, Offers Over £219,995

Three bedroom link detached bungalow. Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, family bathroom and conservatory. Rear garden, garage, central heating and double glazing.

Kearsney Office

01304 823714

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- Hassle free purchases
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For current availability visit propertywide.co.uk



Shepherdswell, Offers Over £350,000

Detached three bedroom bungalow with Annex offering versatile accommodation. Well established gardens. Parking for several vehicles. Village location.

Kearsney Office

01304 823714

Romney Marsh OIEO £128,000

Modern two bedroom semi detached house, new kitchen and bathroom, double glazing, garage en bloc.

New Romney

01797 363194

Romney Marsh £169,995

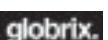
Cul de sac position, two bedroom semi detached bungalow, garage, off road parking for several vehicles, double glazing, gas central heating, enclosed rear garden.

New Romney

01797 363194

geeringandcolyer.com

www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk



Bairstow eves

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Folkestone 01303 259211

dover@bairstoweves.co.uk

folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

EYTHORNE



Dover 01304 201806

OIEO £190,000

Offered for sale with no chain this semi detached family home in the sought after village of Eythorne which offers shop, pub and bus route with primary school and mainline train station in the neighbouring village of Shepherdswell. This home boasts lounge, dining room, kitchen and utility to the ground floor with three bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor. The property retains character features and also has double glazing, gas central heating and garden.



DOVER



£112,000

Forming part of a former stable block this contemporary mews cottage offers modern open plan living on the ground floor with underfloor heating and a spiral staircase to

Dover 01304 201806

the bedroom with beamed ceiling and "Juliette" balcony. This centrally located home also benefits from an allocated parking space. The perfect pied-a-terre.

DOVER



£140,000

One bedroom ground floor apartment in the much sought after block The Gateway. Commanding an unrivalled position on the Dover sea front with

Dover 01304 201806

views of the harbour and ferry port to the front and the Dover Castle on the cliff top to the rear.

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FOLKESTONE



£125,000

Newly refurbished two bedroom terrace house with fitted kitchen appliances and new carpets throughout. No chain

Folkestone 01303 259211



£125,000

FOLKESTONE



£132,500

For sale with no chain. Ideal first time buy. Two bedroom home. Double glazing. Gas fired central heating. Rear garden.

Folkestone 01303 259211



£132,500

FOLKESTONE



£114,995

First floor flat, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and bathroom/WC. There is gas fired central heating and the property is offered for sale with no chain.

FOLKESTONE



£279,995

Detached bungalow set in attractive established gardens. New soffits & guttering installed, repointed, rewired, gas central heating, pipework & double glazed windows.

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- Beautiful 4 Bed Edwardian Semi-Detached
- Prestigious Location
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Deal | Price Range: £215,000-£235,000

- Modern 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Immaculate Presentation, Conservatory
- Close To Walmer Train Station

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range: £210,000-£240,000

- Extended 3 Bedroom Semi
- Delightful Large Garden
- Handy For Local Schools

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Ringwould | Price: £205,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached 'Victorian' Cottage
- Farmland Views, Front & Side Garden
- Parking For One Vehicle & NO CHAIN!

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Deal | Price Range: £185,000-£200,000

- 2 Bedroom Bungalow
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Large Garden & No Chain!

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range: £165,000-£185,000

- 2 Bedroom Cottage, Period Features
- Close To Local Amenities
- Ideal Holiday Retreat Or Second Home

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price: £164,995

- Attractive Semi With Vacant Possession
- Handily Placed For All Town Centre Amenities
- Ideal Family Home & No Forward Chain!

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range: £150,000-£170,000

- 2 Bedrooms, Approximately One Year Old!
- Modern Kitchen, Integrated Appliances
- Garage & Parking For One Vehicle. NO CHAIN!

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



Deal | Price Range: £135,000-£155,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Off Road Parking, Garden
- Some Modernisation, NO CHAIN!

DEAL OFFICE | 01304 361420



For your ideal home, contact your local branch:

Deal: 01304 361420

Dover: 01304 214876

Folkestone: 01303 256505



We work harder.

**Sandwich Offers Invited £305,000**

Four bedroom property boasting open plan kitchen/dining room, ground floor WC, family room, study/bedroom five, living room, garage with remote operated door (a rarity for the location)

**Sandwich £220,000**

Popular location, three bedroom semi, well presented, garage and parking, DG and GFCH, living room, fitted kitchen, gfl WC, rear garden with stream dividing lawned access.

**Ash £369,995**

Four/Five bed det family home, spacious living accomp, hall, living & dining room, kit/break room, gfl bath & 5th bed/study, en-suite & family bathroom, DG, GFCH, GGE & ORP. Situated on popular village on a no thru rd/

**Eastry £199,950**

Deceptively spacious four bedroom semi like a 'showroom' inside, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, two bathrooms, utility room, 47' x 30' rear garden, off road parking for two cars, double glazing and gas central heating.

**Wingham £375,000**

Deceptively spacious four bedroom semi like a 'showroom' inside, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, two bathrooms, utility room, 47' x 30' rear garden, off road parking for two cars, double glazing and gas central heating.

**Nonington £369,000**

A well presented detached four bedroom family home situated within the village of Nonington, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, gfl WC, en-suites, double garage with guest suite/studio above, study, GD and GFCH.

**Sandwich £149,950**

First floor apartment in the conservation area of Sandwich. Spacious hallway/dining area, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, bedroom, second room with en-suite shower used as study or occasional bedroom, bathroom, communal garden. This property is tenanted for six months - No Chain.

**Sandwich £215,000**

Two bedroom property situated within a private mews style development, central Sandwich location. Fitted kitchen, living/dining room, gfl WC, 2 beds and bathroom to the first floor and study/guest room with en-suite. Courtyard garden, garage, no chain.

**Worth £165,000**

End terrace cottage, living/Dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, two bedrooms, first floor bathroom, village of Worth, generous sized rear garden, workshop/shed, driveway to front. Double-glazing, gas-fired central heating.

**Sandwich £239,000**

A unique property situated in a popular area, handy for local amenities including excellent school facilities plus railway station - two bedroom detached with spacious conservatory, fitted kitchen, garage and driveway, double glazing and gas fired central heating.

**Walmer £199,950**

2 bedroom detached bungalow, approx 100' rear garden, living room, kitchen/dining room with aspect over garden towards farmland, shower room. GFCH, DG, call now to view.

**Deal Offers Invited £295,000**

Four bedroom semi detached character home, two reception rooms, kitchen breakfast room, gfl WC, off road parking, wealth of character, sought after location, no chain.

**Wingham £245,000**

Well presented extended three/four bed semi det, sought after cul-de-sac location, spacious accom, living room, dining room, kit/breakfast room, DG, GFCH, driveway & garage. No Chain.

**Sandwich £179,950**

Two bedroom ground floor apartment situated in popular Sandwich location, dual aspect living room, kitchen, shower room, communal garden, off road parking, GFCH, no chain.

**Sandwich £449,950**

Something a bit special! This listed barn has been completely renovated to an extremely high standard combining original timbers and materials with a contemporary style using oak and glass creating a light spacious environment.

**Tilmanstone £159,950**

2 bedroom apartment within the exclusive Dane Court Manor, approx 6 acres of communal grounds, kitchen, bathroom with 4 piece suite, open plan living/dining room. Period features, Call now to view.

**Tilmanstone £169,995**

Three double bedroom, study, bathroom, living room, kitchen/dining room, village location, off road parking, overlooks paddock to rear, UPVC double glazing and GFCH, front and rear gardens, spacious accommodation.

**Eastry £139,950**

Pretty one bedroom end of terrace cottage with living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, appliances to remain, ground floor bathroom, garden to rear. Popular village location. Ideal for first time buyer. No Onward Chain!

**Preston £249,950**

Immaculately presented, popular village of Preston, backing onto farmland. 3 bedrooms, plenty of parking, contemporary styled kitchen and bathroom, conservatory, wood burning stove, no onward chain. View now!

**Stourmouth £129,995**

Superbly presented leisure home situated within desirable rural surroundings. There are two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and shower room. Viewing of this property comes highly recommended.

the fast *moving* estate agent!



tersons



New Romney £179,995

- Grade II* Listed
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen, Conservatory

New Romney: 01797 364600



Lydd £137,500

- End of Terrace,
- Close To Town
- 3 Storey Accommodation
- 3 Spacious Bedrooms, Lounge

New Romney: 01797 364600



Burmarsh £149,950

- Semi Detached
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Modern Kitchen

New Romney: 01797 364600



New Romney Guide £160,000-£170,000

- Public Auction 22/02/2010
- Grade II Listed
- Many Features
- 7 Bedrooms, Garage

New Romney: 01797 364600



New Romney £199,950

- Semi Detached House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Large Conservatory

New Romney: 01797 364600



Lydd £249,995

- Period Home
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- NO CHAIN

New Romney: 01797 364600



Littlestone £290,000

- Detached
- Deceptively Spacious
- 4/5 Bedrooms
- Garage

New Romney: 01797 364600



Dover £95,000

- 2 bedroom terraced house
- Lounge/diner, CHAIN FREE
- 1st floor bathroom
- DG, GCH & Rear Garden

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £99,995

- 2 bedhouse in quiet location
- Good size lounge/diner
- Modern kitchen & bathroom
- Useful cellar and loft room

Dover: 01304 202173



Dover £135,000

- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Fantastic Sea front location!!
- Spacious lounge.diner
- Some updating required.

Dover: 01304 202173



Maxton £149,995

- 3 bedroom End of Terrace
- Lounge, Dining room
- Modern kitchen
- DG, GCH & Off road parking

Dover: 01304 202173



Greatstone £249,995

- Large Detached Bungalow
- Fantastic Countryside Views
- 4 Double Bedrooms
- Large Lounge
- Modern Kitchen

New Romney: 01797 364600



Temple Ewell £189,995

- Extended 3 bedroom semi
- Lounge/diner and family room
- Driveway, garage and rear garden

Dover: 01304 202173

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27-29 Castle Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1PT e: dover@tersons.com

Dover: 01304 202173 New Romney: 01797 364600

Tersons Commercial Lettings



Dover Rent £10 per sq ft.

- Flexible shop space
- 18,950 sq.ft. available
- Rent £10 per sq.ft.

Dover: 01304 246115



Dover Rent £20,000 p.a.

- Shop
- 1,887 sq.ft.
- Rent £20,000 p.a.

Dover: 01304 246115



Dover Freehold £175,000

- Former chapel/business use
- Planning for residential conversion

Dover: 01304 246115



Dover Rent £2,500 p.a.

- Small office suite
- 287 sq.ft.
- Rent £2,500 p.a.

Dover: 01304 246115



Dover Rent £3 per sq.ft.

- Industrial space
- Various
- Rental £3 per sq.ft.

Dover: 01304 246115



Land at Whitfield Freehold £345,000

- 3/4 acres
- Business use designation
- Freehold £345,000

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MOTORS NEWS



Goodbye to scrappage deal – hello swappage

SCRAPPAGE grants are fast running out, so we can expect carmakers to find other incentives to maintain market momentum.

Under Toyota's new 'Swappage' scheme, customers can still snap up a Scrappage-style £2,000 saving on an eligible new Yaris, Auris or Avensis (pictured) if they trade in their old car. It must be seven to ten-years-old – registered between March 1, 2000 and February 28, 2003 (52-plate) – but it will not have to go to the crusher, as under the Scrappage scheme.



Audi's precocious baby car is a guaranteed hit

EXCITEMENT generated by Audi's new A1 baby car has led to a pre-launch trophy – What Car? magazine's Reader Award – Most Exciting Car.

The A1 will not even be unveiled in production form until early March at the Geneva Motor Show.

What Car? editor Steve Fowler also expects it to be a contender for the mag's 2011 Car of the Year Award, saying: 'A funky small car with an Audi badge on the nose and aimed directly at the (BMW) Mini can't fail to succeed.'



Citroën goes posh with its new year C1 range

MORE luxuries are predicted in small cars as economy motoring and downsizing gathers way.

Citroën illustrates the point with a posh 2010 version of its C1 city car. The new VTR+ trim level (from £9,345) replaces plain old VTR, highlighted by the 'Leather Pack': part leather/part Alcantara upholstery, steering wheel and gear knob.

For tighter budgets, the C1 line-up starts at £8,495 and the Splash Special Edition (from £9,045) continues with air con and remote locking as standard.



MONSTER TRUCK: Skoda reckons there are many Yeti customers out there, particularly in the new 'crossover' sector identified by Nissan's Qashqai which has proved popular

Yeti 'find' can cash in on Nissan's Qashqai appeal

SKODA has headed off into the rough stuff with the new Yeti.

It may be smart marketing to name a rugged looking SUV (sports utility vehicle) after the fabled Himalayan Abominable Snowman, but SUVs are no longer hot property in a depressed and more environmentally-aware market. You wonder too if it will find favour with the Czech marque's hitherto conservative customer base.

Besides, those needing a wheeled holdall were already catered for by the clever Roomster mini-MPV. It's cheaper, roughly the same length as its new sister and you can even buy the rugged Scout version, though it comes with front-wheel drive only.

But then Skoda expects most Yeti sales (from £13,775) to be the same format rather than the full 4x4 versions also available from £17,220.

And it reckons there are many Yeti conquest customers out there, particularly in the new 'crossover' sector identified by Nissan with the Qashqai, attracting new customers and transforming that marque's image at a stroke.

The five-door Yeti looks more upright than the Qashqai, but classy and robust and will sell

ROAD TEST

SKODA YETI

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

mostly with its mainstay VW diesel engines, though there is a 105bhp 1.2-litre petrol turbo with lots of urge and modest consumption.

The one to avoid is the 160bhp 1.8-litre petrol engine fitted to the 4x4 tested here; it's a great drive with plenty of go and refinement, but thirsty against the diesels.

It is hard to fault the Yeti otherwise.

As you would demand from a car that might go off-roading, the cabin never creaks or groans or shows poor construction or quality.

It is nicely understated and typically well-organised with clever storage such as the collapsible boot bin. The cloth upholstery is a bit drab – leather seating is a tempting option – but ride and comfort is high.

Even rear seats rake for extra lounging appeal and all three can be tumbled, arranged or even removed individually for varied and ultimate load capacity.

The Yeti delivers excellent on-road composure too; from the high 'command' driving position you get a great view without the cornering lean suffered by many lofty vehicles.

So, the Qashqai faces its toughest competition yet and in a style that offers a genuine, certainly not abominable alternative.



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2004 SAAB 9-3 1.9TID Linear, 4 Doors, Manual, Diesel, 50,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey, ABS, Air conditioning, Alarm, Alloy wheels, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Full Service History, Park distance control, Traction control..... £7,495

2005 05 SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control..... £7,295

2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3TID Aeron, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 73,000 miles, Steel Grey, ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass £5,495

2001 Y SAAB 9-3 2.2 TID SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners, Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Electric remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator, Insurance Group: 12 £3,295

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ALFA ROMEO

3 SERIES, 330d SE Auto, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, beige metallic, 38061 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, 1.6 TS LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, beige metallic, 18900 miles, £1890, Ashford, 0844 856 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 2.0 320D M SPORT CONVERTIBLE, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, metallic black, 37700 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid, blue, 26014 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points roof bars remote audio controls, grey, 59350 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AUDI, 1.6 Fsi Sport 5dr, ro4e4ur, remote alarm, remote central locking, heated seats, folding rear seats, rear headrests, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, parking sensor, electric seats, 17" alloys, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsa regulated, light blue metallic, 64000 miles, £5990, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

A2, 1.4, 2001, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, black, 66439 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 116 iSport 5dr with full leather, remote alarm, remote central locking, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, alloys, a fully fsa regulated, japan red, 48000 miles, £9995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 120d ES, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, black, 38500 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Ramsgate, 0844 856 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.6, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £7985, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, CDX, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering twin airbags remote central locking, poly silver, 23500 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, gold, 34800 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electric/diagram, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, traction control, tropical yellow, 15 miles, £1095, Canterbury, 01209 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjq, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electric/diagram, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, audio remote control, silver metallic, 1200 miles, £10295, Turbendale Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, gk09woh, pas, abs, remote central locking, radio/cd, side airbags, electric/diagram, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, cross-over black metallic, 9000 miles, £9995, Turbendale Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

LACETTI, CDX, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, poly silver, 23500 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, 2006, abs brakes central locking immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player twin airbags remote central locking, metallic black, 37700 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C1, 1.4, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £10990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer, panther black, 27000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ma56ubn, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer, panther black, 27000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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LACETTI, 1.6, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £7985, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.6, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £7985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C4 PICASSO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, beige, 27461 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C4 PICASSO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 44000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's No1 through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For second-hand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power – including the rapid ST – trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupe convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

FAMILY HATCHBACKS

WANT to downsize yet still run a car that does it all? Start shopping for a family hatchback; it seats five, can be crammed like a small van and represents a good balance of space, flexibility and economy... providing you don't go for the 'hot hatch' version. Competition is tough in this sector too, so there are few duds to beware of. Our trio here are affordable and should each give excellent service even if they offer differing propositions on street credibility – the Corolla was axed primarily for its dull image.

TOYOTA COROLLA



TOYOTA chopped the Corolla in 2007 in favour of the Auris, but the latter has all the same virtues and disadvantages. More than any other model, the Corolla made Toyota the world's No1 carmaker – it was affordable and durable, but a little dull. There is plenty of engine and body choice though and even racy versions, though the car pretty much does what it says on the tin. Corolla prices have eased too with its perception as a 'deleted' model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MAZDA3



MAZDA'S link with Ford means that a lot of Focus resided beneath the skin of the first and newly-replaced Mazda3 and that means neat handling. But the Mazda stands out visually from its ubiquitous half-sister, a fact not lost on used car buyers looking for something distinctive. The '3' is mostly found as a capacious hatchback, but there is also a sporty saloon. Engines are lively, in line with Mazda's sporty 'Zoom-Zoom' image – look out for the MPS hot hatch.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Please note that CV's will not be considered.

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TEAM SUPPORT WORKER EDUCATION

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The post will be based in East Kent.

Regional Co-ordinator (37.5 hours)

£27,403

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- Identify and develop placement opportunities and from the end of year two go on to place young people with a learning disability who are at risk of offending or who have offended.
- Identify and help organise opportunities for the young people involved to extend their skills and build upon their confidence, and so help diminish the likelihood of offending.

Regional Learning Disability Consultant (16 hours)

£17,727 pro rata

Having first-hand experience of what it is like to have a learning disability, you will support the Regional Coordinator to make information easy to understand, give presentations at conferences and events and give training to different groups. You will use your advocacy skills to tell people about the project and the needs of young people with a learning disability.

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Mencap aims to ensure that our jobs are open and accessible to all regardless of their gender, race, religion, sexuality, age or any other factor which might incur discrimination.

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Closing Date: 31 January 2010

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Due to a recent increase in demand we also require

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Throughout Kent and SE London

We are seeking to recruit Foster individuals or couples who can show excellence in childcare or who have similar relevant experience or backgrounds.

Excellent supervision and 24 hour support, individualised professional training and more

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Picture NICK DUNCAN



BATTLE: The Sharks were forced to work hard

Sharks remain hot on the heels of Gravesend

RUGBY

Dover 12 Old Elthamians 8

RICKY Mackintosh's late try earned Dover their tenth consecutive win and kept the pressure on London 1 South leaders Gravesend. With around four inches of snow on the Crabble turf on Thursday, a number of volunteers were called upon to clear the pitch for the game to go ahead.

It was Dover's first match for five weeks and they showed a lack of sharpness early on, as Old Elthamians put the Sharks under pressure.

The hosts struggled in the wet and windy conditions and conceded a soft try, with the visitors then adding a penalty shortly after to move into an 8-0 lead.

Dover fought back and dominated possession for the remainder of the half, but were unable to score any points.

The second-half started with Dover finally getting on the scoresheet with a well-worked try from Jon Foster.

Despite scoring, the Sharks became locked in a battle of attrition until the 77th minute. A slick passing move was finished by Mackintosh,

which secured a narrow win for the hosts.

The result pleased head coach Graham Tonks, and with Gravesend winning, the Sharks remain three points behind the league leaders.

He said: "We always knew this was going to be tough. We continued to battle in hopeless conditions and from the possession we had I believe the win was well deserved. Taking everything into account, the lads should take credit for all their efforts and hard work during the week which enabled the game to go forward."

Dover face third-placed Cobham this Saturday at Crabble, which will be a massive test of their title ambitions.

FOOTBALL

Picture GOR KUPCO



CAPABLE: Deal Town boss Derek Hares is confident his side can get a result against Erith & Belvedere

Deal aim to do double over Erith opponents

Erith Town 0 Deal 1

JOHN Utterson's late goal proved enough to earn Deal Town three points from their first Kent League game of the year.

The snow and freezing temperatures has almost put a halt to the Kent League this month, but the conditions failed to claim Saturday's fixture at Erith Town's Bayliss Avenue.

Despite the game being their first for a month, Town showed no signs of a lack of fitness and bossed the game for large parts.

However, it took until the 82nd minute for the deadlock to be broken with experienced striker Utterson finding the net. The goal was enough to secure the win and the three points moved Deal above their opponents into ninth place in the table.

Deal boss Derek Hares said: "It was a well-deserved win. We went into the game with a number of injuries and suspensions, so to come away with the win is a great result. Before the snow hit we have been building a bit of a run and it is good to see the snow has not stopped that."

Town aim to maintain their unbeaten home record when they entertain high-flying Erith & Belvedere this Saturday. The Deras are third in the league, but have won just one of their last three games.

Hares is expecting another tough challenge, but is confident his side are more than capable of maintaining their unbeaten run.

He said: "Erith & Belvedere are always a tough side. However, we are unbeaten at home this season and don't fear anyone. This league has proved time and time again that anybody can beat anyone on their day."



NEW FACE: Ebbesfleet United's Craig Stone (left) has been training at Dover, while Frannie Collin (right) scored twice during a win which saw the Whites move to second place



Pictures SIMON HARRIS/GOR KUPCO

Dover sign another keeper but rule out Stone swoop

DOVER Athletic have signed highly-rated goalkeeper Ross Flitney from Ryman Division One South side Croydon Athletic.

The 25-year-old goalkeeper started his career at Arsenal before spells at Fulham and League Two side Barnet, where he made 50 appearances. After losing his place at Barnet, Flitney moved to Grays before joining Tim O'Shea's Croydon at the start of this season.

Dover boss Andy Hessenthaler has been a keen admirer of the goalkeeper and believes he will add good competition for his squad.

He said: "Ross is someone with a bright future. He is a really good young player who trains every day and I have known about him for some time.

"People will say 'why am I signing another goalkeeper?', but Lee Hook picked up an injury and you can never have enough keepers. I still think John Whitehouse and Lee Hook are both quality players."

Elsewhere at the club, Ebbesfleet United midfielder Craig Stone has been training with the squad to help his recovery from a broken leg.

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Dover Athletic 4

Collin 40, 41, Birchall 53, Welford 85

Dover starting XI



Subs used: Whitehouse (Hook 65), Browning (Birchall 82), Cloke (Adelakun 82)

and he beat two defenders before passing to Birchall, who sent a curling effort into the top corner. The Whites went on to wrap up the points with Shaun Welford's strike on 85 minutes.

A delighted Hessenthaler said: "It was a great performance and to be honest I was hoping the game was going to be called off after our long trip to Fleetwood."

"We had limited options in defence and it was really pleasing to pull off the result we did. Matt Fish has relished his time at centre-half and is playing well, also at the moment our forward line looks really sharp."

but Hess isn't interested in signing him.

On Saturday, the Whites moved into second in Blue Square South with an impressive 4-0 win against Havant & Waterlooville.

After a slow start Hessenthaler's side dominated the first-half, but it took until the 40th minute for the deadlock to be broken. Frannie Collin let fly with a 20-yard screamer, before adding a second goal with a 25-yard free-kick a minute later.

Dover continued to push forward in the second-half with Adam Birchall scoring a third goal on 53 minutes, in what was the move of the game.

James Rogers found Collin on the left wing

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glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Abel rejects Town return as Porter looks for cover

THE search for a striker to ignite Hythe Town's Kent League title bid in the spring continues after Damian Abel turned down an approach to rejoin the club from leaders Faversham.

Hythe submitted a seven-day approach for the lively forward earlier this month, but after discussions with Town's boss Scott Porter, he opted to stay at Salters Lane.

Porter feels more firepower is needed to boost the club's chances of overhauling the Lilywhites in the second half of the season.

But any notion the club were planning to spend big in an attempt to catch Faversham was rejected, with a new signing to be funded by lightening the existing squad.

Commitments

He said: "We haven't got money to burn. We've got a big squad so if we get a striker in we'll probably have to release two players. We don't need cover anywhere else, a striker's all we want."

"There are other targets, but we haven't made contact with anyone else yet."

"I'm good friends with Damian, but he's decided to stay at Faversham. You can only make these approaches and offer what you've got, then it's up to the player."

Hythe's game was again called off last weekend, with their fixture against Beckenham Town postponed due to a water-logged pitch at Reachfields.

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

With the forecast finally improving, their trip to Tunbridge Wells this weekend should go ahead, but it will be seven weeks since their previous league game.

With all their cup commitments earlier in the season Hythe were already behind, playing just 11 league games so far.

They have 19 remaining, but Porter does not believe the unscheduled winter break has affected his side's title chances.

He said: "I don't think so. We keep moaning we don't play enough games at this level, but now we're going to be playing twice a week a lot between now and the end of the season."

"We've had big discussions with the players about what we're going to do regarding the league."

"Faversham aren't running away with it anymore and if we win our games in hand we'll be right there, as will Herne Bay."

"I've said it all along that no team can go through the season without a blip, Faversham are having theirs now and we can take advantage."

Hythe were due to return to competitive action last night at home to Herne Bay in their Premier Division Cup quarter-final first leg.

Log on to www.yourshepway.co.uk for the details.



Picture NICK DUNCAN

NO THANKS: Faversham Town striker Damian Abel (above) declined an approach to join Scott Porter's Hythe Town

FOOTBALL



BACK: Striker Jimmy Dryden could return after injury

Cugley: Big freeze is not to blame if my side fails to perform

DESPITE the disruption caused by successive postponements, Folkestone Invicta manager Neil Cugley will not accept the lack of football as an excuse for a poor performance this weekend.

The Seasiders' trip to Godalming Town was scuppered last weekend by a water-logged pitch in Surrey.

It was the third game called off in a row for the league leaders, who have completed just one game since December 12.

Although training sessions have also been far from ideal in the wintry weather, Cugley will not be hiding behind a lack of preparation when they return to action on Saturday.

He said: "I think everyone will be a bit rusty because there haven't been any games, so it's the same for all teams."

"I'll be very disappointed if the players use it as an excuse. We trained hard last weekend and we're ready."

"Everyone's raring to go really. I think the first 15 minutes will probably be like a primary school game with everyone chasing the ball around because we all can't wait to get going. When you have a good team you realise how much you miss it."

Invicta have not suffered as much as other teams during the big freeze.

They have only had one home game postponed during the spell and their Boxing Day derby with Ashford Town escaped the weather, attracting a bumper crowd.

The thaw has now come at an opportune time, with three successive home games to begin with.

While a trip to promotion-chasing Godalming looked a tricky assignment to restart with, the postponement means they instead begin with a far more favourable home game against struggling Chipstead.

Invicta should remain unchanged for the 12th game in a row, although Lee Spiller and Jimmy Dryden could both make the squad as they recover from injuries.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson reveals his latest plans for the transfer window

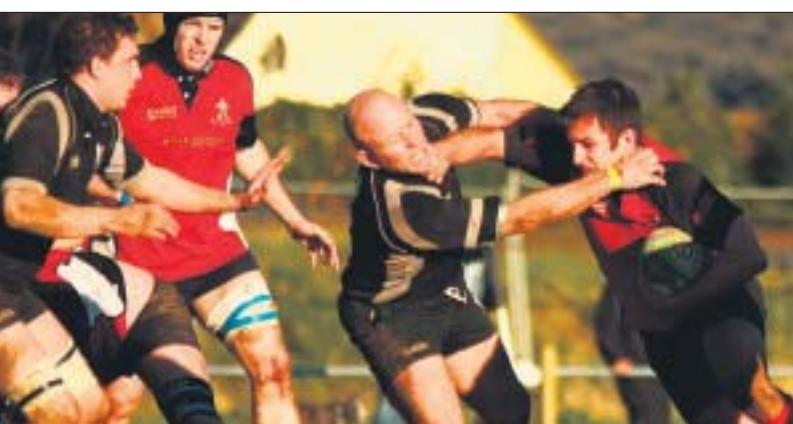
LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dover Athletic	24	21	0	63
2 Staines Town	20	12	4	37
3 Tunbridge Wells	24	12	6	42
4 Carshalton Athletic	22	11	5	38
5 Sutton United	23	11	3	36
6 Canvey Island	24	10	5	35
7 Sutton United	21	10	5	35
8 Dartford	23	10	3	33
9 Waltham	23	9	4	31
10 AFC Hornchurch	21	9	4	31
11 Ashford Town (Mx)	22	10	0	30
12 Billerica Town	20	8	6	30
13 Horsham	21	9	2	29
14 Boreham Wood	22	8	5	29
15 Tooting & Mitcham	23	9	2	29
16 Hastings United	23	9	1	28
17 Harlow Town	21	7	3	24
18 Stevenage	25	5	8	24
19 Harrow Borough	22	5	8	23
20 Hendon	23	6	4	22
21 Margate	24	6	4	22
22 Heybridge Swifts	21	3	8	17

KENT DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Kingstonian	21	13	5	44
2 Metropolitan Police	23	11	9	42
3 Cray Wanderers	24	12	5	41
4 Sittingbourne	22	12	4	40
5 Fleet Town	22	10	9	39
6 Ashford Town	24	10	9	39
7 Dulwich Hamlet (-3)	24	11	7	37
8 Worthing	20	10	7	37
9 Walton & Hersham	23	10	7	37
10 Godalming Town	23	10	6	36
11 Merstham	24	9	7	34
12 Beckenham Town	24	9	5	32
13 Folkestone Invicta	23	8	8	32
14 Crayton Athletic	23	7	6	27
15 Whyteleafe	21	7	4	25
16 Leatherhead	22	6	6	24
17 Burgess Hill Town	22	6	6	24
18 Corinthian-Casuals	24	4	8	20
19 Chipstead	23	4	8	20
20 Whistable Town	23	6	2	20
21 Walton Casuals	23	4	5	17
22 Crowborough Athlete	23	3	3	12



TUSSLE: Deal & Betteshanger won thanks to penalties from Leighton Docherty and a Peter King drop goal

Wafer-thin win for D&B

RUGBY

Deal & Betteshanger 9 Old Reigations 8

TWO penalties from Leighton Docherty and a Peter King drop goal earned Deal & Betteshanger a narrow victory against play-off challengers Old Reigations.

The Lions' Canada Road ground was the only pitch to beat the weather in London South East 2 and they made the most of their home advantage.

The wet and windy conditions suited Deal & Betteshanger as they dictated the style of play early on. Old Reigations rarely threatened the Lions' try line and a mistake from the visitors led to the opening score of the game. The hosts were awarded a penalty, which was duly converted by Docherty.

Old Reigations responded in the second-half by taking the lead with the only try of the game.

The Lions were caught napping and allowed the Old Reigations winger to breeze through the defence and score. The visitors failed to add the conversion.

The try brought about a response from D&B with King's drop goal cutting the deficit to just two points. However, the game was decided in the final ten minutes as Docherty successfully struck a penalty late on to secure their first win of the year.

The Lions return to action this Saturday, when they take on sixth-placed Kings College School Old Boys.

In London South East 3, Folkestone's trip to face Horsham was postponed due to the snow. The Stones hope to be back in action this Saturday against Charlton Park.

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Hythe Town	17	13	2	41
2 Holmestalls	17	12	3	39
3 Tunbridge Wells	17	11	1	34
4 Faversham Town	15	10	1	31
5 Herne Bay	18	10	1	31
6 Erith & Belvedere	15	8	2	26
7 Erith Town	15	7	4	25
8 Sevenoaks Town	15	8	1	25
9 Deal Town	17	6	5	23
10 VCD Athletic	13	7	1	22
11 Croydon	13	6	1	19
12 Sevenoaks Town	16	5	4	19
13 Slade Green	16	5	3	18
14 Norton Sports	15	5	1	16
15 Beckenham Town	18	4	2	14
16 Lordswood	16	1	2	14
17 Sporting Bengal	17	0	0	12

FIXTURES

(Saturday) Ryman Premier League: Dover Athletic v AFC Hornchurch; Ryman South: Walton & Hersham v Folkestone Invicta; Kent League: Hythe Town v Slade Green; Kent Senior Trophy quarter-final: Deal Town v Tunbridge Wells

SPRING 2010

LEAS CLIFF HALL
FOLKESTONE

Box Office 0844 847 1776
www.leascliffhall.org.uk



Critically acclaimed comedian Lee Mack returns to the live stage with a hotly anticipated new show. Lee will be bringing his trademark brand of high energy banter, well-crafted gags and sharp one-liners to venues across the country on his biggest ever stand-up tour.

Wed 10th Feb, 8.00pm
Tickets: **SOLD OUT**



With a mixture of Sinatra's most loved hits such as 'Under My Skin,' 'Come Fly with Me' and 'My Kind of Town,' this fantastic live show highlights all the different guises this great master of the popular song had at his disposal.

Fri 12th Feb, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E19.00 / E17.00**
Concs & Group Discounts



Psychic Mediums Colin Fry and TJ Higgs join together as they deliver messages of love and comfort in their brand new Free Spirit Tour. Be stunned by their breathtaking accuracy in this new show as they conduct an evening of intimate communication.

Thu 18th Sep, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E20.50**



In 2009, Dave Gorman set off on a unique national tour with the intention of cycling over 1500 miles across Britain. Demand for the show was so high that he decided to keep performing it... but this time without cycling from town to each venue. He's getting lazy.

Wed 24th Feb, 8.00pm
Tickets: **E18.50**



Eden Nights: Dancing & Events present a Dance Spectacular in the round hosted by international dance host Paul Eden. Featuring unique performances from the world of dancing, with a finale by Strictly Stars Vincent & Flavia from the BBC's hit TV series.

Sun 7th Mar, 8.30pm
Tickets: **E25.00**



The show is filled with hot rhythms, delicate dances, and beautiful melodies which will take you on a tour through exciting Cuban nights. *Passion De Buena Vista* features three top Cuban singers, dancers from the famous Tropicana Club in Havana.

Thu 11th Mar, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E25.50 / E23.50**



Big Time American Wrestling is now in its 11th year of presenting the best of live wrestling action at family friendly seat prices. World Federation Superstars battle it out in a two hour spectacular against a home team of British Stars.

Fri 12th Mar, 7.30pm
Adults: **E12.50** / Kids: **E10.00**
Family Discounts Available



Dennis Locorriere is one of the last great undimmed American heroes. Lead singer on all the great Dr Hook hits, Dennis' voice is instantly recognised the world over. He sang on all the Hook classics notching up over 60 gold and platinum albums.

Mon 15th Mar, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E22.50 / E20.50**



The Vienna Festival Ballet presents one of the best known love stories, performed by their great dancers. Lavish costumes, stunning scenery and the glorious music from Tchaikovsky makes this a evening not to be missed.

Thu 18th Mar, 7.00pm
Tickets: **E25.50 / E17.50 / E11.50**
Concessions Available



The Day of the Dead is a brand new show from The Circus of Horrors. It is a fusion between daredevil and bizarre circus acts plus live rock played by The Interceptors from Hell, with a Mexican Day of the Dead theme.

Fri 19th Mar, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E25 / E20 / E17 / E13**
Concs & Group Discounts



After the first great night out in April, *Disco Inferno* returns to the Leas Cliff Hall for another great party night! *Disco Inferno* is a mixture soul and disco music from both the 70s and 80s. With DJs JM Sounds and Paul French

Sat 20th Mar, 8.00pm
Tickets: **E11.00**
Group Discounts Available



Metal masters Trivium are returning to Folkestone during a massive 16-date UK headline tour this Spring, in support of current album *Shogun*. Last seen here tearing up a headline spot on Download's second stage with an explosive set. Don't miss out!

Mon 22nd Mar, 7.00pm
Tickets: **E16.50**



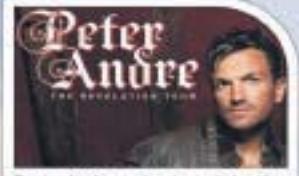
Editors recently joined a select group of artists to achieve consecutive UK Number One albums when their third studio album, 'In This Light And On This Evening', went straight to the top of the chart on its release. One of the greatest live bands in the UK.

Tue 23rd Mar, 7.00pm
Tickets: **SOLD OUT**



Charlie and his five-piece band are known for keeping concertgoers enthralled. His telling lyrics and his engaging anecdotes captivate audiences wherever he performs. On stage he is entertaining, melodic and with a good dose of humour!

Thu 25th Mar, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E17.50 / E15.50**



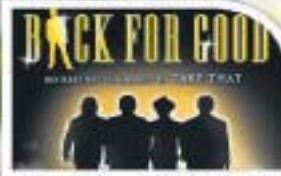
Peter Andre, who is celebrating the success of his brand new album, has announced a 29 date UK tour across the country. The tour will see Peter performing live with his band and the audience will be treated to tracks from his new album and the classic hits.

Fri 26th Mar, 7.00pm
Tickets: **SOLD OUT**



Without a doubt N-Dubz are the hottest breakthrough act from the last twelve months. The band have grown from an underground phenomenon to a commercial force to be reckoned with, their debut UK tour in April selling out due to phenomenal demand.

Wed 31st Mar, 7.00pm
Tickets: **E20**



With their amazing dance routines, numerous costume changes and phenomenal live performances, adoring fans will be singing and dancing within minutes to a great tribute to 'The Greatest Boy Band Of All Time'.

Sat 3rd Apr, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E19.50**

Concs & Group Discounts



It's an exciting day in Toy Town. It's Noddy and Tessie Bear's sing-a-long, dance-a-long party and everyone is invited to join in the fun... except those two naughty Goblins, Sly and Glibbo who are out to spoil the day.

Mon 12th Apr, 1.00pm & 3.30pm
Tickets: **E13.00**

Concessions Available



Solid Silver 60s brings together the unforgettable talents of Dave Berry, Mike Pender, Brian Poole, Peter Sandstedt, all backed by Vanity Fare with Swinging Blue Jeans and The Irgogs. Expect all your favourite 60's hits in the spectacular new show for 2010!

Thu 15th Apr, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E23.00 / E21.00**

Concessions Available



A superbly talented cast brings to life the hits of The Four Tops, the Supremes, the Temptations, the Jacksons and many, many more in this spectacular celebration of the world's most popular record label - Tamla Motown.

Sat 17th Apr, 7.30pm
Tickets: **E19.50**

Concessions Available



He still fills theatres up and down the country and we're delighted that he's coming back. If only to hear the theatre roar with laughter, you should make time for this night. Jethro is a one off!

Mon 26th Apr, 7.30pm

Tickets: **E19.00 / E18.00**

Adult Concessions - 18+ Only

Group Discounts Available

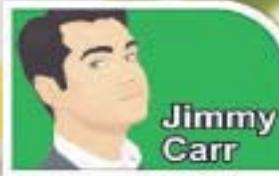


If you've already been to a *Magic* Concert, then you'll know. If you haven't, do yourself a favour, come along, join their ever growing fans and enjoy Queen's greatest hits performed live as no other tribute group can.

Thu 29th Apr, 7.30pm

Tickets: **E18.50 / E16.50**

Concs & Group Discounts



A heady mix of artistic integrity, loyalty and avarice has put Jimmy back on the road. If you only see one comedy show this year... what's the matter with you? Get out more. Even if you like him, 'clever, quick and intelligent' is a bit of a stretch, but he is funny.

Sat 1st May, 8.00pm

Tickets: **E23.50**



Joan's strong rhythmic acoustic guitar playing and her melodic electric solos help to make her the consummate musician. The 3 times Grammy nominated British singer songwriter has stood the test of time with songs like 'Love And Affection' and 'Willow'.

Fri 14th May, 8.00pm

Tickets: **E29.50**



ABBA Forever is one of the UK's leading International tribute shows and theatre audiences from across Great Britain and Sweden have long enjoyed this superb recreation of possibly the world's greatest pop band.

Sat 15th May, 7.30pm

Tickets: **E18.50 / E17.50**

Concs & Group Discounts